AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

VOL. 21 No. 995 – TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2000 ● REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST ● PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

$3.30 GST INCLUSIVE

WORLD SUPERSTARS BACK THEIR OWN MARKETING ABILITY, SPECIAL REPORT page 21

SURVIVAL

Carlton aim to stay alive

Simon Colosimo: Carlton's potential lifesaver.

Australian Olympic international Simon Colosimo looks like becoming Carlton's lifesaver, with offers of between $1.5 million and $2 million coming the Blues' way.

The 21-year-old star may be poised to make a move to Germany, but speculation regarding his overseas future has also included clubs in England.

Ever since its formation four years ago and its entry into the national league in 1997, a cloud has hung over Melbourne's most ambitious soccer experiment, the Carlton Soccer Club.

This has culminated in the club wanting to restructure its entire existence.

SPECIAL REPORT Page 8

Corry Appointed

By John Economos

Ronnie Corry, who late last week was officially installed as the Wollongong Wolves' new Head Coach, has the very rare distinction of being the only coach in the NSL that was a former goalkeeper.

The softly spoken Corry is certainly no stranger to Wollongong, having served the past four and a half seasons as the trusted assistant to head man, Nick Theodorakopoulos.

When the Wollongong Board of Directors failed to come to terms with the new financial requests made by Theodorakopoulos for a new contract, the two parties finally parted company.

It had been assumed by many, that Corry would also leave Wollongong.

For the past three or four weeks, Corry was being hounded by Sydney Olympic's General manager Peter Raskopoulos to take over the training of the Club's goalkeepers.

But suddenly last Friday afternoon, Wollongong pulled back Corry and nailed him down to a contract as Head coach.

Now Corry has been bestowed with the unenviable task of shackling the NSL Championship that Wollongong won last season, despite the loss of key playing personnel over the past few weeks.

Continued on

MARVELLOUS MARINA

By John Economos

Marina Chiellini, who turns seven years of age today (Tuesday), is a unique young lady. For little Marina is the only girl player in the entire of Marconi's 12 team Junior and Youth Soccer set up.

Not only does little Marina play for the Marconi 'Swans' Under 7s, in a 7-A-side Mini Soccer competition, but she's a striker to boot.

When ABSW approached Marconi's most rare and diminutive dynamic goalscorer and questioned her on who her hero is, Marina promptly answered:

"Christian Vieri and Paul Okon. They're just the best."

Last Saturday night at Marconi's hugely attended 'Junior and Youth Presentation Night', the marvellous Marina proudly marched up on stage to receive presentations being made to the Marconi 'Swans'.

Together with all her boy team-mates, Marina collected her prized trophy plus a medallion for the solid performances the team put in during the season.

Happy Birthday Marina.

Marina Chiellini: Little professional proudly displaying her awards.

JOE WATSON'S BIGGEST BATTLE PAGE 3

THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

TSEKENIS NOW A BREAKER PAGE 10

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP DECISION DELAYED PAGE 20

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

Issue No. 995

``Published every Tuesday by
F.L. PRESS
5-13 Garners Ave.,
Marrickville NSW 2204

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MAILING ADDRESS
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Overseas: $198 (GST incl.)

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NSW/ACT:
FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave,
Marrickville NSW 2204.
Tel: (02) 9562-0500

VICTORIA:
FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street,
Collingwood. 3066.
Tel: (03) 9486-9522
Fax: (03) 9486-9858

QUEENSLAND:
Queensland Newspapers
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
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Tel: (08) 9328-4779
Recommended and maximum price.
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Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

NORTHERN NSW FINALS

By Greg Danvers

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation Leagues have moved into the play-offs with no real surprises at the weekend.

In the NBN Soccer League (First Division) premiers Edgeworth Eagles beat Cessnock Hornets 4-0 on Sunday at Jack McLaughlan Oval in the major semi final.

On Saturday last year's grand final winners Hamilton Olympic dismantled the Maitland Magpies season with a 4-1 win in the minor semi final played at Darling Street Oval.

For the Magpies coach Steve Piggott is was a season of over achievement given the pundits early season assessment of his youngcharges chances.

To take such a young and inexperienced team to the finals was a bonus for the enthusiastic coach.

Cessnock, after reaching their first playoffs in many decades, were totally outclassed by the star studded Edgeworth side. Lankymidfielder Wayne Bailey, moved into the striking role for the major semi by coach Bobby Namouv, netted a first half hat trick.

Newcastle Breakers recent signing Daniel McBreen scored the fourth goal for Edgeworth in the dying stages of the match.

In the 2HD Soccer League (Second Division) premiers West Wallsend has gone straight to the Grand Final after a 4-0 drubbing of Belmont-Tingira while Medowie, after beating University 2-1 in the minor semi final, play Tingira in the preliminary final on Saturday.

TALKING WITH MR ED

For those of you who are regular readers of this column you will know that I normally like to use this space to pre-empt what the coming pages will hold.

This week I'd like to talk about something a little more specific - alot of which has to do with the story on page 21 about players and their own marketability.

I am all for players earning their living and making full use of the riches that await their limited careers - careers that can last 4 or 5 years or for the lucky ones 10 - 12 years.

But what I'm more concerned about is not about how many millions Emmanuel Petit, Marc Overmars or David Beckham and co may earn off the pitch, but in fact where does this leave the emerging...that's right emerging nations like Australia?

It is no secret that as a code we come fourth in a four-horse race in this country and it is no wonder so much of our premier talent heads abroad to ply their trade. There are riches to be sought out there but they are not here.

So what do we do in Australia?

We've all heard the same stories many times over but on a personal level, and you may not agree with me, I see it like this:

Most of our top players don't play in the NSL and therefore the standard of our game is depleted. Most that are playing in the NSL want to go - this is not good. Most players in the NSL do not earn a full-time living from the game.

The answers to these problems are not easy and we can debate them until we are blue in the face but why is it that more clubs aren't looking abroad for players to increase the standard of our NSL?

If we can lose players to England, Germany, Italy and the like and even to far and away places like Austria and Norway why can't we go and poach the few quality players that exist in the Asian region. What's wrong with Hong Kong, Fiji, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Singapore?

Forget the has-beens and let's look for new blood. It might just give the NSL some new quality.

It won't be the answer to all the problems we face and it won't bring the riches mentioned earlier, but I believe it's a start in the right direction.

And who knows, we might even qualify for a World Cup - now wouldn't that be something!

Ed.

RIVALS TO OPEN TYNAN-EYRE CUP

By Bert van Bedaf

Title holder Carlton and 1998 winner South Melbourne will open the 2000 Tynan-Eyre Cup competition for the first contest of the new season between the two Melbourne rivals.

The pre-season tournament, in honour of Melbourne police who have died in the line of duty, will be held during during September. But the dates won't interfere with Olympic soccer matches, held at the MCG during the same month.

"The Tynan-Eyre draw does not interfere with Olympic matches in Melbourne. We've picked dates that don't clash," Victorian Soccer Federation organiser George Angelopoulos said.

The Tynan-Eyre Cup has been organised by the Victoria Blue Ribbon Foundation for nearly 10 years and is Victoria's premier pre-season tournament for national league teams.

The draw is as follows: Sunday, September 10, at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, 2pm, South Melbourne vs Carlton, 4pm, Eastern Pride vs Melbourne Knights.

Saturday, September 16, at Green Gully Reserve, 2pm, South Melbourne vs Eastern Pride, 4pm, Carlton vs Melbourne Knights.

Sunday, September 24, Knights stadium, 2pm, Eastern Pride vs Carlton, 4pm, Melbourne Knights vs South Melbourne.

Friday, September 29, Blue Ribbon Day, at Veneto Social Club, 6pm, 3rd placed pool team vs 4th placed pool team, 8.15pm, 1st placed pool team vs 2nd placed pool team.

The Olympic Games soccer matches at the MCG begin on September 13 with the Matildas playing Brazil at 5pm. The Olyroos play Italy at 8pm after the staging of the gala ceremony. Other Olympic dates are September 14, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 26.

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According to the Derby County website South Melbourne's Con Blatsis is on the verge of completing a reported $300,000 move to the club.
No official statement has been released by Souths but the deal is expected to be completed in the coming days.

★ ★ STOP PRESS ★ ★

SERMANNI BACKS D'OTTAVI

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni has refused to condemn the actions of Adelaide City's president, Bob D'Ottavi, in selling top players overseas.

"I would do the same myself if the survival of the club was a stake," Sermanni said.

"It is one of the realities of the modern game. Nine out of 10 kids with soccer talent in this country want to play overseas.

"Surely it's better to manage their transfer in a way that brings some money back into Australia rather than seeing them heading off at 14 or 15 having never kicked a ball in the NSL.

"I believe clubs should make it clear to players when they sign them that they will not stand in their way should overseas clubs show an interest.

"Really, can we make such a fuss over what D'Ottavi did when we have more than 100 of our best players in other countries already?"

Sermanni said that by supervising the sales, Adelaide City can ensure valuable contract clauses are inserted ensuring the club get the benefit of any [sell-on] transfer deals.

"Quite often, the big money comes when the player is established overseas and moves between clubs," he said.

"Under this system the cash comes back to Australia, gives the club resources to develop new talent and maybe even pay their staff sufficiently to make going elsewhere less attractive.

"What's preferable? Losing a couple of star players, or being dead?"

Tom Sermanni.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

By Graham Cooke

If ever there was a match deserving the title of "meaningless end-of-season contest" it was the 1-1 draw between Belconnen United and Monaro at O'Connor Oval on Sunday.

The canteen, preparing for the summer break, ran out of food and closed early. There were probably a number of players on both sides who wished they had the same luxury.

But the regular season has to be played to a conclusion and the two points apiece were probably the most satisfactory topping off for the clubs as they contemplate their respective finals tasks this weekend.

The game began with both teams looking like they might do a little more than go though the motions. Belconnen seemed the more likely, but finishing was far from satisfactory.

Geoff Howarth, presented with an opportunity from a Jason Dunn header, blazed well over the bar, then a succession of corners tested the Monaro defence, Paul Macor the unwitting hero for his side when a desperate lunge at a cross from United's Craig Unwin saw the ball skew off his leg to safety.

But there was no saviour in the 33rd minute when Monaro failed to cover an attack down the flank and the cross came to Neil Barancewicz who had time to place his shot past goalkeeper Tony Guarino.

United held the lead for just five minutes, a ball into the penalty area sliced from the head of defender Phillip Yarnold to finish in the back of the net.

The second half slid into an aimless midfield struggle, almost devoid of incident until the closing minutes when first Guarino clawed down a firm header from Scott Ralston and, at the other end, Jimmy Baxter's shot was gathered by Chris Freeman at the second attempt.

Monaro coach Jimmy Bland summed up the situation when he said it is difficult to motivate players with finals in mind.

"They don't want to get injured. The commitment level could have been a touch better but in the end I am pleased with the result," he said.

His opposite number, Lino Fiorese, said there were some good chances in the first half, but the poor quality pitch - three games of rugby were played on it the day before - defeated both teams.

Striker Marko Perinovic, missing from the side this week with a knee injury, should be back for the finals "although I was quite happy with the performance of Lee Rupil in his position".

Howarth will miss Belconnen's major semi-final with Gungahlin Juventus after picking up his third yellow card. Monaro faces Canberra Olympic.

In other matches minor premiers Juventus completed the regular season with a 4-1 win over Tuggeranong United at Jamison Oval.

Tuggeranong, a finals contender until the week before scored first through a Scott Conlon penalty after his brother, Marc, had been brought down.

That was the wake-up call Juventus seemed to need and they netted three times before half time through George Cattanach, Danny Serena and Josh Whittington. The league's Golden Boot, Steve Lazzari, headed home in the second half.

At Deakin Oval the home team, Canberra Deakin, came from behind to win 3-1 over Weston Creek Royals, propelling them into a fifth place finish.

The University of Canberra and Burns Club played out a 1-1 draw at Wanniassa Oval.

Three goals in five minutes midway through the first half was enough for Olympic to sink Capital City Suns at Riverside. The final score was 5-1.

Other divisions:

Under 23s: Belconnen United 1 Monaro 1, Canberra Deakin 1 Weston Creek Royals 2, Gungahlin Juventus 4 Tuggeranong United 2, Capital City Suns 1 Canberra Olympic 2.

Under 19s: Belconnen United 1 Monaro 1, Canberra Deakin 2 Weston Creek Royals 2, Gungahlin Juventus 0 Tuggeranong United 0, Capital City Suns 1 Canberra Olympic 1.

Masters: University of Canberra 0 ANU 1, Canberra Deakin 2 Tuggeranong United 1, Kambah Rovers 11 Belconnen United 0, St Francis 2 Burns Club 1, Kambah Old Boys 3 Belwest 0.

ACT PREMIERSHIP FINALS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gungahlin Juventus	18	14	3	1	59	14	48
Belconnen United	18	12	3	3	57	20	42
Canberra Olympic	18	10	4	4	45	30	38
Monaro	18	11	2	5	53	28	37
Canberra Deakin	18	10	1	7	37	30	32
Tuggeranong United	18	9	2	7	40	38	31
University of Canberra	18	5	2	11	21	36	19
Capital City Suns	18	5	2	11	36	58	19
Burns Club	18	3	1	14	21	56	11
Weston Creek Royals	18	0	2	16	15	74	4

Wollongong Appoint Corry

Continued from front page

Grand final hero and goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi surprisingly left the Club to sign for the Parramatta Power, and Fiji's former Olympic captain and ace-striker Esala Masi has gone to the Newcastle Breakers.

Industrious midfielder Noel Spencer has signed with the Northern Spirit and a couple more are in the throws of making a move from the new League Champions' dressing rooms.

With Wollongong having won the Grand Final last season, and with players having left the Club, why on Earth would Corry want the job now?

It's like trying to entertain the people by singing **AFTER** Frank Sinatra.

Who Really Is Ron Corry?

Well for the younger ones, they already only know that Corry was supposed to have been a former goalkeeper.

Many also have the knowledge that he even played for Australia.

Thirty-three times in fact.

Corry first burst into senior prominence in the mid 60s with the fabulous 'Canterbury kids' team, today's NSW Super League side Canterbury Marrickville.

The short-for-a-goalkeeper Corry, was first selected to play for Australia back in 1967 by the most respected and loveable 'old man', Uncle Joe Vlasits.

After retiring as a player, over the many years, Corry built for himself a reputation as an excellent goalkeepers' coach.

In his playing days as a goalkeeper, Corry was the longest kicker of a dead ball in the nation.

From either boot, Corry could hit his goal-kicks up to 75 metres and with a low trajectory that shocked many visiting international teams that toured our country to play Australia.

But there is far more to Corry than knowing all about goalkeeping.

For years Corry has been known as being either a good goalkeeping coach or as just a good assistant coach.

There's far more to Corry than this.

What many people in Australian Soccer have either conveniently forgotten, or didn't even know, was the fact that it was Ron Corry in the early 90s who actually rolled up his sleeves and completely rebuilt Sydney Croatia's struggling first grade team.

Five years later, this very same side, (now a crack Sydney United team), graduated to easily waltz into the 1997 NSL Grand Final in Brisbane under coach Branko Culina to do battle against Frank Farina's Brisbane Strikers.

Five years before this very Grand Final, Corry had been appointed by Sydney Croatia as a stop gap coach of the first grade team.

Corry's Super Seven Kids

The first thing he did was to bravely 'clean-out' Sydney Croatia's dressing rooms of much older and experienced players.

Corry then with great courage, immediately upgraded and injected into the first team a stack of totally inexperienced 16 and 17 year old raw kids.

Seven in total.

A most suicidal decision professionally, as well as politically.

The former international goalie, actually believed these seven kids had real talent and that in time they would make it.

This was no less than the same philosophy that Corry's first national coach 'Uncle Joe' pursued back in 1967 when Vlasits rebuilt a completely new Australian national team which seven years later was the nucleus of our national squad that carried Australia into our first, (and still only), World Cup Finals, in West Germany of 1974.

Ronnie Corry: Wollongong Wolves' newly installed NSL coach.

'Uncle Joe' in 1967 bravely threw into the Australian national team vastly inexperienced 'kid soldiers' such as Corry, Watkiss, Baartz, Warren, Abonyi, McColl, Vojtek, Schaefer, Ackerly etc.

Now Corry at Sydney Croatia, (although not faced by any real financial dilemma at the Club), elected to embark on a policy of wholesale upgrading and gambling on youth in the senior team.

It was just Corry, no one else, that gave the 'kids' a massive golden chance, plus endless patience and guidance in the big time of NSL Soccer.

But at a huge and fatal personal cost.

These seven kids, (naturally as expected), in their first dozen or so matches, yielded erratic results for Sydney Croatia, being their first season in the NSL.

But the kids kept forging ahead.

With erratic results, (again, as naturally expected in Australian Soccer), combined with an impatient Committee and compounded by an even more impatient section of supporters, the inevitable happened to the Coach.

Corry was soon 'guillotined' by the near-sighted Club.

But each and every one of those seven kids remained in the first team at Sydney Croatia.

Seven Out Of Seven Internationals

Month after month, and well after the coach had been sacked, 'Corry's kids' were gathering very valuable experience, plus very much needed, but slowly growing, confidence.

Five years later, this Sydney United team not only had an average age of 21, (discounting the experienced and fabulous central marker and captain, Velimir Kupresak), but now, despite their youth, possessed five years of most valuable experience in the NSL.

The re-named side now called Sydney United, had blossomed into a magnificent, well-oiled and matured team.

In fact it became the most attractive team in the whole of Australia, playing superb short passing Soccer that thrilled crowds across the nation.

To top it all off, every one of Ron Corry's 'seven kids', later graduated to play for Australia on international arenas.

Do we remember any of these seven raw-talented kids?

Let's try: Zeljko Kalac, Mark Babic, Tony Popovic, Ante Moric, David Zdrilic, David Seal, Ante Milicic.

Today, none of the seven are at Sydney United.

Five are with European or top Asian sides as fulltime professionals, whilst two are at Marconi (Babic) and Sydney Olympic (Moric).

And all this was achieved by one little stocky guy known as Ron Corry. An Australian with a sharp vision for talent, plus possessing a big courageous heart to give the kids a real go in the big time, but all at a huge personal cost.

Not a 'cheque-book-coach', but a quiet achiever, just like his first national coach, 'Uncle Joe' Vlasits.

Ron Corry, now the Wollongong Wolves new senior coach, please take a bow.

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Watson faces his toughest battle

By John Economos

Joe ('Jinky') Watson, former Australian and Sydney City wonder winger, capped 17 times in full internationals for Australia, as previously announced by 'Good Oil' some weeks ago, has been tragically struck down by a serious illness.

The current coach of NSW Super League side the Fairfield Bulls, Joey today is facing the greatest battle of his 47 year life.

Without question, the best ball-crosser during the late 70s and 80s with Hakoah later renamed Sydney City, Watson racked up more than 300 games in the NSL.

Sometime today (Tuesday), Joe will undergo most serious surgery.

Meanwhile some of Joe's very close friends and former Sydney City team-mates Alex Robertson (0413-158 030) and Tony Pezzano (0414-555-971) have got together to blueprint a series of fund-raising functions for their battling wonder winger friend.

Urgent funds are now needed for life saving operations plus months of ongoing treatment and personal care.

The first function kicks off this Saturday night (August 12th).

It's a Trivia Night that will be held at the Ramsgate RSL and is to be hosted by television's moustaschioed presenter, Andy Paschalidis.

Joey ('Jinky') Watson: Critically ill.

Tickets to the Trivia Night however have already been sold out.

On August 19th, a Mini World Cup is to be held at Jellicoe Park, Pagewood, with a dinner later the same evening has been organised and set to take place at the Coogee-Randwick RSL.

On Wednesday August 23rd a cocktail night has been arranged by Joe Watson's numerous friends and former players at his former Club, Sydney City.

This will be staged at the Hakoah Club at Bondi Beach.

On Saturday August 26th, and highlighting the already programmed events, will be a series of 'Celebrity Matches' that will take place at the Marconi Stadium throughout the afternoon.

Some of the teams involved will feature an Australian Over 35s combination with past Australian captains, Tony Henderson, John Kosmina, Ray Baartz, Murray Barnes, David Ratcliffe, Paul Wade and Charlie Yankos.

A World XI will include former New Zealand international goalkeeper, Clint Gosling, a Sydney City Old Boys team and a Scotland Over 35s side.

NSL clubs Marconi, Sydney Olympic, Northern Spirit and Sydney United will feature with two exhibition matches.

Later the same evening, a fund-raising dinner will be hosted by none other than Club Marconi.

For further details regarding any of the above planned functions, friends of Joey Watson wishing involvement should immediately contact Alex Robertson or Tony Pezzano on their above Mobiles.

Now is the time Joey Watson really needs his friends to rally around him.

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MARIO MICALLEF 0407 240 469

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U18's, U21's and 1st Grade

Trials Dates State League
U18's 12pm, U21's 2pm, 1st Grade 4pm
Sunday, October 8th, 15th, and 22nd, 2000

Youth League Division 1
U13's, U14's, U15's and U16's
Trial Dates Youth League
U13's 9.30am, U14's 11.30am, U15's 1.30pm and U16's 3.30pm
Saturday, October 7th, 14th, and 21st, 2000

Cadet League Division 2
U11's and U12's
Trials Dates Cadet League
U11's 9am, U12's 10.30am
Sunday, October 15th, and 22nd, 2000

Applications to be sent to Mr John Palmano
PO Box 7044, WETHERILL PARK NSW 2164
Or for further Enquiries contact:
Frank Falcone 0411381969 or John Palmano 0412921131

Minimum requirements – Intermediate Level Certificate
Applications close September 1, 2000

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

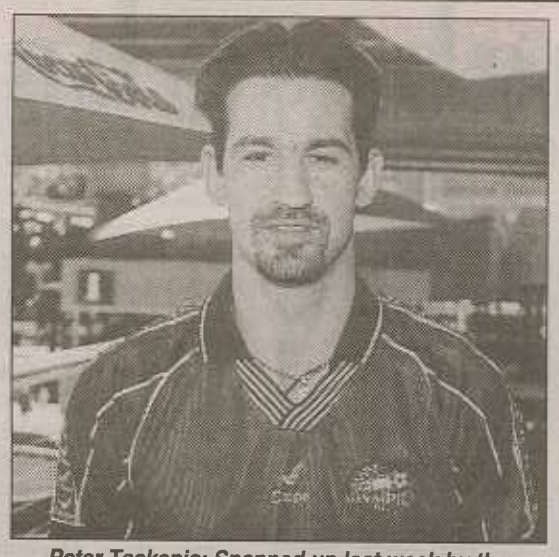
By John Economos

JOHN ANASTASIADIS, South Melbourne's goalscoring specialist, was re-signed by new coach Mickey Petersen for another season.

The goal-ace scored three crucial goals in Souths' back-to-back Grand Final victories in 1998 and 99.

At 32 years of age, Anastasiadis has accumulated vast experience, especially in having played no less than nine years in the first division in the Greek National League.

●●●●

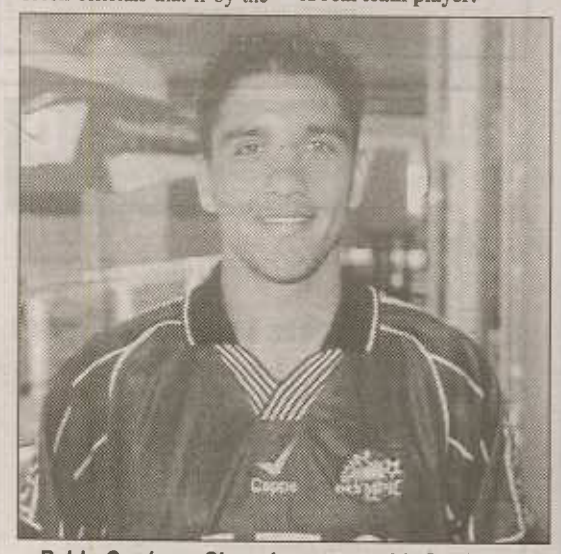


Peter Tsekenis: Snapped up last week by the Newcastle Breakers.

John Anastasiadis: Experienced striker re-signs with Souths.

PABLO CARDOZO, Sydney Olympic's ace striker who left last Sunday week for Greece, signed a five month contract with newly promoted to the first division, Athinaikos.

Cardozo at his own request cautiously signed for only five months till December, and told the Greek officials that if by the end of the year he is happy with the Club, then he'll sign for another year.



Pablo Cardozo: Signed contract with Greek first division club.

●●●●

PETER TSEKENIS, Sydney Olympic's captain and former Australian Youth and Olympic Games midfielder, surprisingly signed last week a one year contract with Lee Sterrey's Newcastle Breakers.

After 10 consecutive years at Olympic, the former St George junior was surprisingly released by Olympic's head coach Branko Culina.

Tsekenis is a valuable hard-working ball winner in the midfield and can attack when he is allowed. A real team player.

●●●●

ANTHONY SURJAN, was another surprise signing made in the middle of last week by the Newcastle Breakers.

The magical midfielder Surjan stopped playing midway through last season when he fell out of favour with Wollongong's coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Anthony Surjan: Signed by the Breakers last week.

●●●●

WOLLONGONG WOLVES' Director of Soccer Operations, Max Hobbs, in a media communique regarding the parting of company with Head Coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, stated last week: "The Wolves gave young Theodorakopoulos a tremendous opportunity, four and a half years ago, and Nick repaid the Club by winning the League Championship.

"He was responsible for bringing many fine quality players to Wollongong and for implementing the entertaining style of Soccer that yielded a record breaking 72 goals in the last regular season.

"I regret his decision not to accept our offer, but believe the association has proved to be of great benefit to both Club and Coach, and we wish Nick every success for the future," ended Hobbs.

A second communique later in the week was fired out by the Wolves' General manager Graeme Haney which heralded that former Australian World Cup goalkeeper Ronnie Corry had been appointed as the Wolves' Head Coach for the coming season. (See Page 3 story).

Corry who now officially takes over from Theodorakopoulos, was the Wolves' assistant coach for the past four years.

The Wolves kick off their pre-season next Tuesday, August 15th, with their first home match at their new home ground, WIN Stadium on October 14th against the Perth Glory.

●●●●

FRANCIS AWARETIFE, Marconi's gangling veteran striker, has been released by the Club and is looking for greener pastures.

Leading the stakes for the big striker's signature are Sydney United and Sydney Olympic.

Both clubs are in dire straits for quality attackers, especially Olympic who have lost Norm Tome and Pablo Cardozo.

Despite Awaritefe having turned 36, there's still plenty of mileage left in this athletic fiery galloper.

Ronnie Corry: Former Australian World Cup goalkeeper.

Francis Awaritefe: Chased by Sydney United and Olympic.

●●●●

AN NSL coach has just shifted his digs into a modern, but small townhouse.

After having moved a ton of his Soccer gear and souvenirs into his lady-friend's townhouse, things got really tight for space.

Said coach confessed to 'Good Oil' during the week: "Mate I don't mind being denied the space that I used to have. But it's ridiculous every night after training I have to pole-vault over rubbish just to land into my bed."

●●●●

THE NSW 'TEAM OF THE YEAR' with no less than six players from recent Gand Final winners Blacktown City, will play two exhibition matches.

The first game will be against an NSL Select side on Saturday August 26th at the Marconi Stadium that's being billed as the 'Joe Watson Benefit Match'.

The expected second match is against a State Queensland side that will be played in Brisbane on September 2nd.

The NSW 'Team Of The Year' squad of 16, is:

1. **Fernando GRECO** (Goalkeeper) Blacktown City
2. **Paul DEE** (Defender) Blacktown City
3. **Ben GREEN** (Defender) Bonnyrigg
4. **Damien FOXE** (Defender) Blacktown City
5. **Vuko TOMASEVIC** (Defender) Leichhardt Tigers
6. **Damon LANGAN** (Midfielder) Blacktown City
7. **Johnny GHISSO** (Midfielder) Bonnyrigg
8. **Damien BROWN** (Midfielder) Blacktown City
9. **Matthew BORG** (Midfield/Striker) Fairfield
10. **Mark HAGGER** (Striker) Blacktown City
11. **Colin LUFF** (Striker) Bonnyrigg
12. **Elias AUGERINOS** (Midfielder) St George
13. **Jim NIKAS** (Midfielder) Canterbury/-Marrickville
14. **Chad BISHOP** (Midfielder) Macarthur
15. **Jim ASCHNER** (Striker) Eastern Suburbs
16. **Jason HOLMES** (Goalkeeper) Parramatta Eagles.

●●●●

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS have organised a four team pre-season tournament to kick off on Friday September 1st and go through till Saturday 9th September.

The tournament will involve the Breakers, Marconi, the Northern Spirit and Sydney Olympic.

Proposed prize money is reportedly $30,000.

Three double headers culminate to the Finals, to be played at the Breakers'Stadium — the Northpower Stadium.

●●●●

SYDNEY UNITED could soon sign former New Zealand international defender Gavin Wilkinson who for the past few months has been playing in Singapore's S-League. Also expected to be signed is former Power's sweeper and captain, Richard Plesa.

Gavin Wilkinson: Set to sign with Sydney United.

Damien Foxe: Blacktown City's central defender and skipper.

●●●●

AN NSL coach is rapidly getting fed up with the shenanigans being dished out by one of his Club's officials.

"This guy is the very best 'Hop Skotcher' around the Law that I've ever seen in my life.

"This guy's incredible.

"I'm positive that way back down the line he was related to 'Harry Houdini', stated the coach.

●●●●

PARRAMATTA POWER duo, newly signed goalkeeper and Grand Final hero, Les Pogliacomi, plus stylish striker Mile Sterjovski, are still in Europe trialling with clubs.

The lanky Les is in England trailing with Premier League outfit Crystal Palace.

Meanwhile, Sterjovski has decided to try his luck in France and is working out with Lille.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

Mile Sterjovski: Stylish striker in France on trials.

Both trialists are expected back in Sydney by early next week.

●●●●

EASTERN PRIDE, (formerly the Gippsland Falcons), has made it known that it is committed to maintain and preserve its history.

All past and current players, states the Club, are of the utmost importance to the survival of the Eastern pride.

The Eastern Pride has thus decided to acknowledge the contribution of all past players by forming a 'Past Players Association-the 50 plus Club'.

Any player that has represented the Club in 50 or more senior competitive League or Cup matches, between 1960 and 2000, is now invited to make immediate contact with the Eastern Pride Club.

for further details, they must contact Past Player Co-ordinator, Mr Gerry Clarke on 03-5174 6413 or 0408 128 809.

●●●●

RAUL BLANCO, Australia's Olympic Games coach, will release his final Olympic Games squad of 18 for the actual Olympics, including the three over-aged players, on August 18th.

Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic Games coach.

●●●●

NOMINATIONS for the Oceania Football Confederation close on August 16th with the elections having now been brought forward from October 1st to the 28th of next month.

●●●●

How many players have captained **AUSTRALIA** at the modern Olympics. Who were, and are they?

(See end of this column).

●●●●

MARCONI this Thursday night will have a friendly hit out against the recent NSW Super League Grand Finalists, Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

The match will take place at Bonnyrigg's homeground, the Serbian Centre, with kick-off set for 7.00pm.

Marconi's head coach Eddie Krncevic is expected to give some of his new signings a much needed gallop.

Angelo Costanzo: Marconi's new star signing.

Newly signed flexible defender Angelo Costanzo and striker Norman Tome are expected to play.

Krncevic has been drilling Marconi's NSL squad with arduous double daily training sessions.

●●●●

ARCHIE BLUE, former Apia and Australian international midfielder, took a squad of 20 players for a two week experience crusade to England recently.

Two of the promising youngsters who were on

By John Economos

Blue's tour, have currently remained behind and this week are at Ibrox having trials with Scottish giants, Glasgow Rangers.

The first lad is Matthew Osman, a 17-year-old defender with the Parramatta Eagles Under 18s.

The other who will not turn 17 for another six months, is midfielder-cum-striker, Chris Srbinovski from the Illawarra Lions.

Archie Blue: Former Apia and Australian international midfielder.

After spending a week at Rangers, the two Aussie teenagers will head back South and into England for further trials with Fullham.

●●●●

WHILST IN ENGLAND, Blue entered the young Australian squad to compete in the tough and rigorous Under 17s Premier League F.A. Tournament staged at Keele University at Stoke On Trent in the Midlands.

The young Australian squad made up of various players from all over NSW, played as the 'SSCE-NSW XI'.

The young Aussies were engaged in no less than seven very physical matches crammed in just under two weeks.

"It was a great experience for the lads," Blue stated to 'Good Oil' yesterday.

"They played against a team from Sweden, as well as teams from Newcastle United, Ipswich Town, Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa and Crystal Palace.

●●●●

THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC team's real strength right now just cannot be accurately measured until coach Blanco has announced his final squad in 10 days time.

Mark Viduka: Always with a powerful desire to play for Australia anytime, anywhere.

Much more important is who will Blanco select as his three 'Over-aged' players (over 23), on August 18th.

Two of the 'mystery' three, Paul Okon and Mark Viduka are surely automatics.

And surely both will gain releases from their respective English clubs, Middlesbrough and Leeds United.

After these two we could be looking at Glasgow Rangers' experienced central or flank defender Tony Vidmar, (already having played in the Barcelona Games), pacey left flanker Stan Lazaridis (Birmingham City) and Danny Tiatto (Manchester City).

Another two Aussie Olympic 'automatics' that would normally have been rated for selection, must be discounted by Blanco.

Last Saturday from Germany, Munich 1860's dynamic sweeper, Ned Zelic, (another starter at the '92 Barcelona Games), made it very clear that he is sustaining his self-imposed unavailability to play for Australia at the Olympics.

As for Leeds United's Harry Kewell, well it's always been a lottery on his availability when it comes to playing for Australia.

Australia's first match at the Olympics is against newly crowned European champions Italy on September 13th at the M.C.G.

The next two matches in Phase 1 sees Australia do battle on September 16th and 19th against Nigeria (current Gold Medalist) and Honduras (CONCACAF champions).

●●●●

FAUSTO DE AMICIS, South Melbourne's experienced attacking defender has signed a new three year contract to remain with the Club.

The 31-year-old seasoned League Championship campaigner, (having won four Champions' medals), De Amicis has played 229 NSL games as well as having been capped for Australia on five occasions.

Fausto de Amicis: Signs for another three years with Souths.

Linking up with De Amicis in the back-line is the newly returned and very experienced defender Mehmet Durakovic.

This star defending duo gives Souths the most experienced and rock-stable back-line in the League, a vital factor for any League championship aspirant.

Bobby Bignall: Australia's first ever Olympic Games captain.

Answers to players that have captained Australia at the Olympic Games:

Five.

Bobby Bignall (Melbourne 1956), Charlie Yankos (Seoul 1988), Ned Zelic (Barcelona 1992), Kevin Muscat (Atlanta 1996) and Brett Emerton (Sydney 2000).

Parramatta Eagles SC

UNDER 19 PLAYERS WANTED

Players must turn 19-years of age on, or after, 4th November, 2000.
TRIALS TO BE HELD AT:

EVERLEY PARK
(next to Melita Stadium)
CHESTER HILL

Thursday August 10
TIME 7PM
Sunday August 13
TIME 9AM
Monday August 14
TIME 7PM

For further details please phone
Mr Victor Ellul
☎ 0408 962 314

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic Soccer Football Club Limited
ACN 050 214 554

SOCCER TRIALS

Super Cadets (U11s & U12s)
Super Youth (U13s to U17s)
U/19s & 1st Grade

Sunday 13th, 20th, 27th August 2000
Sunday 3rd, 10th September 2000
Mahoney Park, Marrickville
(9.00am-12.00pm)

For further details: Laki Konistis
(Club Administrator)
04111.91815

TOWARDS SYDNEY 2000

AT A GLANCE ...

Full Name: Ivan Zelic
Club: Adelaide City Force
Date Of Birth: 24th February 1978
Left or right footed? Left
Eye Colour: Green
Hair Colour: Dark Brown
Height: 191cm
Weight: 88kg
Positions Pl: yed: Defender, Midfielder

THE STATS & FACTS ...

LG Under-23 Appearances (Vs Country) 12
LG Under-23 Goals (Vs Country) 0
National Representative Honours (other): U/20 - 1997 World Youth Cup finals (Malaysia)
Number of Seasons with current Club: 1
Clubs Played For (current first): Adelaide City Force, Canberra Cosmos, UTS Sydney Olympic, AIS
Junior Clubs: Canberra Deakin
Age I started playing soccer: 6

THE LOOK FORWARD ...

Career Highlight to date: Travelling with the LG Socceroos to USA in 1998
Biggest Achievement to date: Being a member of the Olympic Squad
Ambition: To play professionally
Words of Advice: "Don't think about what anyone else says — be your own boss."

PERSONALITY INSIGHT ...

Favourite Actor: Brad Pitt
Name your Top 3 Movies
Fire Club
Pulp Fiction
Reservoir Dogs
Favourite Comedian: Carl Barron
If you could be a character from any movie, who would you be? Tyler Durden from Fire Club (Brad Pitt version)
Favourite Musician/Band? Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds
List 3 CDs you couldn't live without:
(by title & artist)
Carl Barron Live
Nick Cave — Let Love In
Million Dollar Dream — Rap Compilation
Favourite Music Venue: Bin 127 - Adelaide
Favourite Food: Everything
Favourite Drink (non alcoholic): Water
Favourite Drink (alcoholic): Wild Turkey & Coke
Favourite TV Show: Drew Carey Show
Favourite Cartoon Character: Crash Bandicoot
Most Prized Possession: My health
Dinner Party For 6, who do you invite (living or dead)?: Albert Einstein, Jim Morrison, Tolstoy, Kurt Cobain, Brad Pitt and Kylie Bax.
Entrée: Caviar
Main Course: Hamburgers with the lot
Dessert: Kylie Bax

THE PEERS ...

Favourite Overseas Player: Zinedine Zidane
Favourite Overseas Team: Atletico Madrid
Most Admired Australian (based local) Jim Fraser
Most Admired Australian (based OS) Ned Zelic
Most Admired Defender Taribo West
Most Admired Midfielder Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker Ronaldo
Most Admired Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez
Hardest Opponent (player) My brother in the backyard
Hardest Opponent (team) Argentine Olympic Team
Dream choice of which world league? Turkey — there's no tax in Turkey!
Most admired Sportsperson Dennis Rodman

Olympic file #22

IVAN ZELIC

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life and the profile of Australian Soccer?

A: Immensely. The Sydney 2000 Games could open up all kinds of other avenues to all sorts of possibilities ... publicity wise .. recognition in your own right ... or just helping you get to your next stage, an opportunity to advance to the next level. As for the code in this country, I really think the Games will bring something that's been long overdue for the profile of Australian Soccer — hopefully, on the back of an excellent tournament, soccer will have finally "arrived" in Australia.

Q: Why will the LG Under-23s perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: Because we're too good not to. Regardless of what happens over the next few weeks, a lot of good players are going to miss out on selection, which shows that the depth is there — and to win a gold medal, you need all 18 players, not just the 11 on the park. The depth in this current squad of 30 plus is across the board.

Q: It's almost crunch time, with the Final Squad named in less than a month. What's the pressure and tension like in the current camp on the Gold Coast, and how do you deal with it personally?

A: I'm surprised actually, because it hasn't been as tense as expected. Sure it's playing on everyone's mind, but sometimes you have to just sleep on it.

Me, I'm doing OK — I'd be lying if I said it didn't keep me awake some nights, thinking about it, but I try not to focus too much on worrying, and instead look for alternatives ... reading, listening to music, telling myself that its not the end of the world if things don't go my way.

At the same time though, I tell myself that it would be very disappointing to miss out, especially having been part of the squad for so long. Maybe it's just so big that we're not comprehending it totally — it will take to September 13 for it really to sink in — this is what we've been training for — 100 000 Australians shouting our name and telling us that it's our time.

Q: What motivates you?

A: The possibility of not succeeding.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Life, family and friends.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the LG U-23 squad?

A: I have a pretty good ability to read the game, while my left foot and instinctive thinking on the park are vital parts of my game. I feel I have something to offer to the team as a whole, and in saying that, I think it doesn't single me out as an individual, but more as a team player.

Q: What does the chance of being part of the Australian Olympic Football Squad mean personally to you?

A: Everything — this is what I've been working toward for the last three years ... a sense of personal pride to be out there on the day, representing my country ... and also a sense of inner relief.

Q: What kind of encouragement and support do you get from your family?

A: All sorts ... my father looks at me sometimes, I can tell his eyes are full of pride, because he can see how badly I want this — that look is worth a thousand words ... my older sister is the ying and yang of my life — she balances me, and is behind me 100 percent no matter what or how I do ... my mum gives me enough love for a thousand lifetimes ... my little sister keeps me smiling ... and my brother keeps me curious.

Q: Is there any one particular member of this current squad who you feels stands out?

A: Harry Kewell — even though he hasn't played with us yet, we all know what he's capable of, and the lift he will give the team ... and Simon Colosimo, not just for his ability on the park, but for his friendship off it.

Ivan Zelic: Yearning the chance to play at the Olympics.

Q: Is there a particular Olympian who inspires you, and why?

A: Alexander Popov — I used to dine with him at the AIS, and after all the success, he's still the most down to earth guy you'll ever meet.

Q: Is there any particular team that you are looking forward to facing at the Olympic Games, and why?

A: Well, after we get through some tough opposition in the likes of Italy, Nigeria and Honduras in the first round, probably Brazil — they have been touted as gold medal favourites, and to be the best, you have to beat the best.

Q: What is the question you are asked most regards Sydney 2000?

A: How will it affect my life?

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

A: Slow and steady wins the race — it's not a sprint, it's a marathon. We're in it for the long haul — book your tickets for the Final and we'll see you there.

Feature courtesy of Soccer Australia media department. Already profiled Brett Emerton, Steven Laybutt, Lucas Neill, Michael Curcija, Nick Rizzo, Jacob Burns, Daniel Allsopp, Tansel Baser, Mile Sterjovski, Chris Coyne, Kasey Wehrman, Hayden Foxe, Kosta Salapasidis, Jason Culina, Dragi Nastevski, Dejan Milosevic, Con Blatsis, Clayton Zane, Simon Colosimo, Zeljko Susa and Archie Thompson.

All profiles can be found at
www.socceraustralia.com.au

"I'd be lying if I said it didn't keep me awake some nights."

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

END OF THE ROAD

Raul Blanco will next week perform one of the most difficult tasks of his long and illustrious career as a soccer coach.

The likeable Argentine must tell half of his Olyroo squad that they will not be taking part in the 2000 Sydney Olympic football tournament.

That news will be heartbreaking to the young men, many of whom have been training for the past three years for the once in a lifetime opportunity of representing their country on home soil.

The inevitability of the dreaded occasion will not soften the impact as the realisation strikes that the Olympic dream has been shattered.

No doubt, Blanco and his able assistant Adrian Santrac and the support staff will emphasise that all of the original squad members should share in any glory achieved, even those players discarded at the 11th hour.

Blanco pre-empted the moment by saying, "Many good players are going to miss out. "We all knew the time would come when we would have to say goodbye.

"We have been together for a long time and we are all pursuing the same dream. It will be a sad time."

Sad indeed! However, nobody blames Blanco, but rather the system that allows the selection of three overage players in a designated Under 23 competition.

Originally, the Olympic soccer tournament was an open age competition, but FIFA later changed to the Under 23 format to avoid the Olympic football series becoming a serious rival to the World Cup tournament.

Later still, the Under 23 format was altered to include the three over age players, leaving the option open to include or exclude the more experienced campaigners.

Still regarded as an emerging soccer nation, Australia, naturally accepted the chance to play its three best credentialled performers.

Blanco's task of choosing his final squad is a dilemma of immense proportions. He began with a group of 30, which comprised overseas-based and local players.

Many of the local men have since left our shores to join overseas clubs. The most recent departures reached such alarming numbers that a camp on the Gold Coast was cut short, while a proposed camp in Adelaide was cancelled.

Meanwhile, the debate regarding who would be the most competent overage players from overseas to represent Australia come September rages.

The chosen trio will be joined by the still eligible Under 23 aspirant, the cool, recently declared priceless, Harry Kewell.

With an 18-man squad the allowable number, only 14 places remain up for grabs when the final acceptances are named by the August 18 deadline.

Last June, Blanco reported that he had a short list of six overseas professionals pencilled into his little black book.

'I will pick the three (over age) players we need, not necessarily the glamorous names," he said.

New Socceroo captain Paul Okon and Mark Viduka are the hot favourites for two spots, with Stan Lazaridis an outside chance to be allowed to reproduce the outstanding form he displayed against Iran at the MCG.

The fact that the Olyroos officially kick-off the football tournament at the MCG would not be lost on the fiercely determined Lazaridis, who just loves donning the green and gold of Australia.

SPAL KEEN ON KEMP

Matthew Kemp was hailed as the rookie of the year in his first season with Adelaide City Force.

Now, Italian Serie C club Spal is reportedly set to sign the former Canberra midfielder. No big deal, you say? Perhaps not, except that Spal is owned by the mighty Juventus club and is a feeder organisation for the Turin giant.

Kemp, 19, followed impressive trial form with Spal by scoring a brace in his first friendly hit out.

MARATHON RADIO STINT

Congratulations to Adelaide radio station 5RTI (92.7FM) for its above and beyond the call of duty devotion and dedication to local soccer.

The community unit begins its coverage with its 11am Saturday Soccer Show and crosses direct to the Marden Sports Centre at noon for broadcasts of the Premier League Mutual Community Top Five finals series.

RTI takes in double-header games during the finals and stays with the action throughout any extra-time.

When the West End Federation Cup final spilled into extra-time and a penalty shoot-out was called, station commitments were delayed until the last spot-kick was taken.

SHORT COMINGS

Marden Sports Centre has been lauded as an ideal alternative venue to Hindmarsh Stadium for finals games.

The playing surface is near perfect, while the grandstand is far superior to any suburban soccer facility in South Australia.

Granted that the project is only half finished and that a second grandstand is planned, but we must point out that a couple of factors need attention to bring the stadium up to scratch for future finals play.

With double header games programmed, more dressing room accommodation must be provided, while no provision has been made for the press.

These may seem minor considerations, but everything counts when it comes to staging successful events.

However, bigger facilities than Marden began life without a press box and without coaches' boxes — Example, the Sydney Football Stadium.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 presenter, Rob Popplestone and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiato.

St George Soccer Association Inc.
The Association of the future

TRIALS FOR U/19's PREMIER (Summer) LEAGUE COMPETITION
WILL BE HELD 22nd, 24th, 29th, 31st AUGUST
6.00pm at St George Stadium
Bestic Street, ROCKDALE

Applications are invited for the following:
13's Youth League Coach
14's Youth League Coach
15's Youth League Coach
16's Youth League Coach

11's Cadet League Coach
12's Cadet League Coach

14's Girls Youth League Coach
16's Girls's Youth League Coach
All applicants to hold an Intermediate Level Certificate
Applications for the above positions close 14th August 2000
Post all applications with experience and qualifications to:
The Secretary
St George Soccer Association Inc.
P.O. Box 347, HURSTVILLE B.C.
NSW. 1481

ST.GEORGE

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

The coach departs – Nick Theodorakopoulos has brought great success to the club, his attacking style of soccer entertained all supporters and he achieved the seemingly impossible dream for the soccer followers in Wollongong, bringing the NSL Championship to town. Whether you like Nick or hate him, you have to admire the success he worked hard for with his squad of solid players, all champions in their own right. It could take a long time to reach a championship of such proportions again with the Wolves.

However life goes on and the Club Board has to show wisdom and strength in leadership to pick up the pieces after disappointment of seeing three players and the coach departing.

The decision to move to WIN Stadium requires suitable marketing to the public and sponsors, matters like season tickets, VIP boxes, advertising signs and many other details have to be approached quickly.

Pre-season training is about to start with not much time left to organise a competitive side which promises success. Only a winning team fills the stadium and the coffers of the club, nothing less is important. It won't be easy for everybody in the club to settle down and continue on the winning road prepared this year by the departing coach.

Good luck to the new boss Ron Lorry. Now the people behind the Wolves have to show character and carry on, taking strength from this year's fantastic success story, build on it, continue to aim for another great soccer season. Say thank you to Nick for the spark he ignited for the Wolves.

New Wolves Chairman Joe Cachia wants to portray it correctly that Nick was not sacked, the club wanted him to stay on, he chose not to accept the club's offer and was no longer on contract. Before going overseas on holiday it was believed Nick had agreed on a new contract but on return decided otherwise. Wolves director of Soccer Operations Max Hobbs in a media release states that Nick Theodorakopoulos had been the Club's preferred coach to lead the Wolves in defence of the National League Championship and had been offered a new contract with substantial increased benefits, however which were rejected leaving the Club no option but to search for a new head coach.

In a PR move Wolves Chairman Joe Cachia has welcomed the announcement that a local financial company – the IMB – has entered into the marketing partnership with the Wollongong Hawks Basketball club as their major sponsor. Mr Cachia was impressed with the vision and commitment of the IMB – Illawarra Mutual Building Society – and challenged the region's many other financial companies to put more back into the community from which they derive their profits.

■■■■

Illawarra ICU Premier League results round 21 – with only one more game to be played the results create a three team race for the championship and on the tail end a three team fight to avoid relegation. Kemblawarra 1 Wollongong Olympic 0, Northern United 2 Shoalhaven City 3, Bulli 3 Lysagths 1, Western Suburbs 1 Albion Park 0, Port Kembla 4 Tarrawanna 1, Cringila Lions 0 Coniston Lions 2. **Leaders:** Port Kembla 42 points, Wollongong Olympic 41 and Coniston 40. At the other end Tarrawanna is last on 17, Shoalhaven 18 and Albion Park 21 points, thus the final round will decide the champion and relegation.

■■■■

Illawarra ICU First Division – a similar situation with three teams aiming to take the title. Results – University 2 Kiama 1, Woonona 4 Dapto 0, Highlands 0 South Coast United 5, Helensburgh 5 Illawarra United 0, Barbarians 0 Picton 10, Fernhill 1 Warilla Wanderers 4, Berkeley 2 Balgownie 3, Shellharbour City 0 Bellambi 3. Leaders are with one more game to go – Picton Rangers 48 points, Balgownie 46, Dapto 45 points.

Midweek amateur Soccer Association (BHP Interworks) has started its season with games every night Mondays to Fridays at Centenary Park, Cringila, at Present 10 interworks company teams are playing. The competition is open for any Amateur team, contact Rudy Horvath, Secretary, home on 4296 8354 or Centenary Park 4275 7522 Extension 5910 (BHP internal phones).

HILLS UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

Cadet/Youth League Trials

Hills United is looking for quality players and is giving you the opportunity to join us at our trials for places in Year 2001 ...

CADET LEAGUE
Under 11 – Monday 2, Wednesday 4 and Friday 6 October 2001
Under 12 – Tuesday 3, Thursday 5 and Friday 6 October 2001

YOUTH LEAGUE
Under 13 – Monday 9, Wednesday 11 and Friday 13 October 2001
Under 14 – Tuesday 10, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 October 2001
Under 15 – Tuesday 10, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 October 2001
Under 16 – Tuesday 3, Thursday 5 and Friday 6 October 2001

Enquiries:
Louis Fayd'herbe – Cadet/Youth League Coordinator On 0402 077 073
Venue:
Fred Caterson Reserve – Gilbert Road – Castle Hill Oval No.2

START TIME: 7.00PM SHARP

BANKSTOWN CITY CUBS EST.

Bankstown City Cubs Require Coaches for Season 2001

Bankstown City Cubs, a joint venture between Bankstown Amateur Soccer Association and Bankstown City Lions Soccer Club, seek applications from suitably qualified coaches for the following positions:

Under 11 and Under 12
• ***SUPER CADET LEAGUE*** •
Under 13, 14, 15 & 17
• ***SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE*** •
• ***GOALKEEPER COACH*** •

Applicants must have the appropriate qualifications and be prepared to work in a team environment in the development of local talent.
Applications close 21 August, 2000.
Applications should include details of experience, qualifications and contact numbers and are to be sent to:

The Convenor Bankstown City Cubs
147 Alfred Road, Chipping Norton 2170.
PH: 9600 6261 • FAX: 9600 8156

NSL's Youngest club is looking for a lifeline

TROUBLED TIMES

Melbourne's youngest NSL club, Carlton, is travelling through troubled times. Melbourne editor, Bert van Bedaf, talked with Steve Hargitay, a former Carlton director who resigned last week because of dissatisfaction with how the club was being run.

Ever since its formation four years ago and its entry into the national league in 1997, a cloud has hung over Melbourne's most ambitious soccer experiment, the Carlton Soccer Club.

In the wake of the Collingwood Warriors flop a year earlier, the question was quickly raised and is still being asked will or won't the Blues survive? For Melbourne's sake the answer is it must. If there's to be a healthy local rivalry to lift soccer's profile in this Aussie Rules mad town, derby's with Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne are essential, not only for Carlton but also fore the other two clubs.

But more to the point, Carlton deserves to survive and prosper. It has an excellent squad of players, talent to burn, a respectable playing record, including an inaugural grand final berth and a third place last season, and a high standard of off-field conduct. But it is running out of money and it's never had a crowd. Last season, 2500 spectators were among some of the better attendances.

Under its first owner, the Carlton Cricket and Football Social Club, the Carlton Soccer Club played at Optus Oval. But Carlton FC president John Elliott could no longer afford the round ball indulgence and in 1999 sold the club to football entrepreneur Peter Jess and his company Network Sports Ltd.

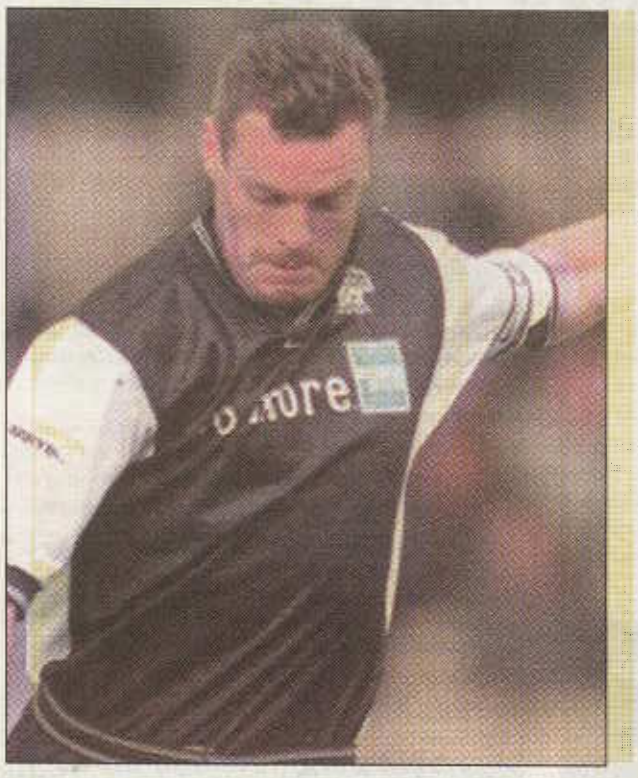
Carlton moved to Olympic Park, signing a 10-year lease, in a solid bid to become Melbourne's premier soccer club. While the money flowed outwards, the expected crowds stayed at home. Little or no money has come back in.

About $2.5 million has been blown in the past three years and the club's debt is reportedly up to $2 million over the past 18 months.

The Australian Professional Footballers Association went public recently after the club missed player payments on the due date. It apparently was the fifth time in six months and the APFA called for a public audit.

The club is again at the crossroads and up for sale. A deal with the Melbourne Knights fell through and Jess, a controlling shareholder of Carlton, is now hawking a majority share to overseas investors or clubs, including English Premier League club Everton.

Controversy surrounding Jess's other business dealings may have dampened local enthusiasm. Legal wrangles involve Olympic athlete Cathy Freeman, who once belonged to Jess's stable of managed athletes, and a lawsuit by a former business partner, Eleanor Klopsch.



Andrew Marth: Carlton skipper.

As reported in Melbourne's The Age, Klopsch is suing Jess for "breach of trust". It is being alleged, and Jess has denied the allegations, that he moved funds from his accounting business into "a series of companies, including the Carlton Soccer Club".

Former Carlton director, Steve Hargitay, told ABSW last Tuesday that

Jess's other business affairs had not affected the board's opinion of Jess.

"That is his other life and other business interests. There's no reason to doubt Jess and the board has no reason not to stand behind Jess," Hargitay said, even though Jess's hard-nosed commercial approach was sometimes difficult to accept.

"He has his own vision and that is not the same vision as Carlton started out. He's looking towards developing juniors and youth and being able to market them on the world market," Hargity said.

A Carlton foundation member, Hargitay quit as a director only days ago.

"I resigned as a director," he told ASBW yesterday. "Some of it has to do with work commitments, other things with a dissatisfaction how the club is being run. It's a combination of things," he said.

Only months ago, Lou Sticca, generally regarded as the founding father of Carlton, resigned as general manager, also unhappy with the direction the club was taking. Others who have left are marketing manager Jeromy Lyford and youth coach Jeff Olver, who has joined rival club South Melbourne.

Hargitay is a strong advocate of major change at Carlton. He believes the club must find a market (read supporter base), a new playing venue and a new name, if it is to forge a stable and attractive identity and a long-term future for itself.

The Carlton name is too much associated with Australian Rules football.

Other football fans won't support a rival name and let's be honest about it, soccer fans might also be following Aussie Rules, but few football fans are also soccer fans.

If Carlton is to create a supporter base for itself, it will have to find itself an area and a stadium it can call home and give supporters ownership of the club by choosing a suitable moniker.

Hargitay is somewhat baffled by the lack of support for what is a quality product. "We felt there was a market out there for a club not aligned with any ethnic group or religion that could attract between 5,000 to 10,000 people," Hargitay said.

Archie Thompson: Could be heading overseas.

"Carlton is a quality team, a quality product and we've been playing in good stadiums at comfortable venues. But we haven't been able to draw even a miniscule percentage of Melbourne to come to the games. We've been at two different venues in three years and obviously it's not working," he noted.

That's why Hargitay believes it's time to ring in major changes.

"Carlton needs to either spend a large amount of money on marketing and hope the crowds will come (to Olympic Park) or change the club name and playing venue. If that doesn't work, we'll have to question whether Melbourne wants a non-ethnic aligned club. The words hurt to say," Hargitay, who has Hungarian heritage, said.

"Carlton is the best kept secret in Victoria. In hindsight, we've spent not enough dollars on marketing the club to broaden its supporter base.

We've focused on winning (matches) to bring in the crowd. A name change is something Carlton has to explore. A name change has been discussed," Hargitay said.

He suggested Melbourne Victory or Melbourne United. Perhaps the Melbourne Dragons, to attract a growing population of Asian-Australians who are big soccer fans.

There might also be the opportunity of becoming the Melbourne Raiders, if Carlton moved to Epping stadium, in Melbourne's outer northern region. The stadium, which is only a year old and an Olympic training venue, is currently home to relegated Victorian Premier League club Melbourne Raiders, formerly known as the Thomastown Zebras and Thomastown Devils.

The Raiders wanted to revert back to their old name last season and Carlton might want to take over the Raiders name. Alternatively, the Raiders might be interested in a merger. As Thomastown Devils, they merged with former NSL club Brunswick Zebras to become the Thomastown Zebras five years ago. Hargitay suggested there were four venue options.

"Carlton could decide to stay and tough it out at Olympic Park.

Hopefully, the area will improve, especially in view of the car parking, so that it will become a more functional venue. The club's also looking at Bob Jane stadium. We could create an association with (home team) South Melbourne and make Bob Jane the centre of Victorian soccer.

"Thirdly, the club could move to Epping stadium. It would have to make sure the stadium is up to NSL standard (currently it is only suitable for Victorian Premier League games), but by becoming the only national soccer league club in the area, the club may be creating an audience.

"The fourth option is to renovate a disused Victorian Football League ground and create an association with one of the local clubs," he said.

Hargitay favours the Epping option.

Soccer Australia's league chief executive Stefan Kamasz will be in Melbourne this week. He will be checking out Eastern Pride (Gippsland Falcons last season), Carlton and its range of options, including Epping stadium. Carlton's future will be at stake.

FULL SQUAD

Olyroo Simon Colosimo might yet become Carlton's lifesaver, with offers of between $1.5 million and $2 million coming the Blues' way.

The 21-year-old star may be poised to make a move to Germany, but speculation regarding his overseas future has also included clubs in England.

The Blues have started pre-season training and coach Stuart Munro appears to have a full squad, with captain Andrew Marth and midfielder Lubo Lapsansky again the driving forces behind Carlton's fourth championship bid.

Carlton director Steve Hargitay said most of last season's players had re-signed, with 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis, David McPherson, Mike Conroy, Sean Douglas, Mark Atkinson, Andrew Packer, David Terminello, John Markovski and Joe Tricarico also among the earlier starters.

Archie Thompson may yet be making a move overseas, while Steve Horvat is close to re-signing. Young striker John Kennedy has moved overseas. The 17-year-old has signed for German club Wolsfburg. Striker Alex Moreira has moved to Northern Spirit while Stuart Slater is doubtful.

Marconi's Junior and Youth Presentation Night

By John Economos

Marconi Stallions last Saturday night staged their Annual Junior and Youth League Presentation Night almost crammed to capacity with 800 attending adults and track-suit cladded children.

Teams from the Under 7s through to the Under 16s were assembled and all presented with attractively designed, and inscribed, trophies.

Youth Technical Director Of Coaching and former Marconi international, Jean Paul De Marigny, praised highly the coaches, team-managers and players of the whole 12 squads for solid seasons.

Each player, not only received a trophy plus a medallion, but a glossy folder with a large coloured print of their respective squad with a comprehensive end-of -season- programme sleeved inside.

Congratulations here are a must, to be extended to an extremely and very capable, plus immensely dedicated, Ms Lisa Severin.

Not content with being a mother of three, Ms Severin as well holds down the position as being the Marconi Junior and Youth League Soccer Co-ordinator.

The whole evening was meticulously programmed and orchestrated by the industrious Ms Severin.

Ms Severin's end of evening speech, was not only embracing and articulate, but also quietly emotional. It was easily the best speech of the night and failed not to acknowledge all the appropriate and deserving people connected with the Juniors and Youth of Marconi.

She also failed not to acknowledge the wonderful and hugely valuable driving assistance she received from Marconi's energetic and vivacious Marketing Co-ordinator, Ms Stella de Francesco.

In appreciation, both ladies were presented with a large arrangement of flowers.

Marconi's Under 7s ('The Kangaroos'), who are coached by Frank Valastro, had their awards presented by Mr Ron Hughes -Secretary of Southern Districts.

Under 7s ('The Swans'), coached by Charlie Boutoubia, were presented their trophies by Marconi NSL striker Harry Karl.

Under 8s ('The Possums'), coached by Sam Siplone were presented with trophies by NSL midfielder Vlado Zoric.

Under 8s ('The Budgies'), coached by Robert Cesarone, received trophies from NSL left wingback Brendan Renaud.

Under 9s, coached by Jeff Stivala, received trophies from NSL left wingback, Brendan Renaud.

Under 10s, coached by Alik Rysko, received their awards from Brendan Renaud.

Under 11s, coached by Claudio Becerra, received their awards from NSL midfielder Chad Gibson.

(l to r) Ms Lisa Severin-Marconi's Junior & Youth League Soccer Co-ordinator, Mr Frank Labbozzetta-Marconi's Secretary-manager of Soccer and Ms Stella de Francesco-Marconi's Marketing Co-ordinator.

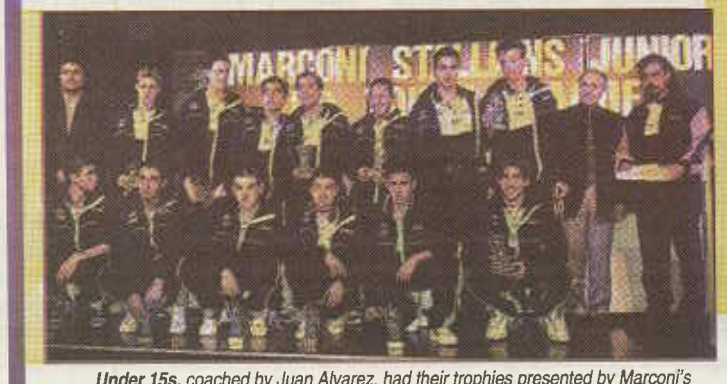
Under 12s, coached by Ricky Chiellini, received their trophies from NSL midfielder, Chad Gibson. The Under 12s last Sunday defeated Sydney Olympic in a fierce battle 2-1, scoring a 'Golden Goal' in extra time.

Under 13s, coached by Frank Fedeli, received their trophies from NSL midfielder Chad Gibson.

Under 14s, coached by Pat Marando, presented with their awards from Evening Sponsor, Mr Frank Carioti, Managing Director of Brenex Developers.

Mr Frank Carioti, Managing Director of Brenex Developers who sponsored the entire awards made to all the Junior and Youth League teams, with Marconi's Secretary of Soccer, Mr Frank Labbozzetta.

Under 16s, coached by Sam D'Alessandro, who won the Minor League Championship by just losing two games out of 19, and scoring a massive 70 goals, were presented with their awards by the Club's long serving Major Sponsor of Soccer, Mr Tony Brescia.



Under 15s, coached by Juan Alvarez, had their trophies presented by Marconi's Senior Vice President, Luciano Crema.

BREAKERS SIGN TSEKENIS

BY Greg Danvers

Many a time last season Newcastle Breakers coach Lee Sterrey lamented the lack of a tough midfielder to dictate play, slow down a match and take the game by the scruff of the neck and give it a real shake.

Last week that deficiency was laid to rest with the signing of midfielders Peter Tsekenis from Sydney Olympic and Anthony Surjan from the premiers Wollongong Wolves.

Both players are well-credentialed midfielders who will add depth to the Breakers creating even further competition in the club for a red-and-blue starting shirt.

Tsekenis, 27, the former Olympic skipper for the past three, of his nine, seasons brings leadership qualities to the side that current Breakers leader Shane Pryce welcomes.

'He's an experienced player who was captain at Olympic,' Pryce said yesterday.

'He has a wealth of experience and knowledge of the game and he will be a key player in the midfield, slowing the game up and directing traffic which will probably be his main role.

'It proved invaluable in my role as captain with the likes of Andy Harper and Bobby Catlin that they will take pressure off you.

'It would be good to have 11 captains; that's what it felt like last year.

'Peter has been around the traps and he's the type of player who will be able to settle in quickly, especially in Newcastle.

'Most people who come to Newcastle (Breakers) are welcomed with open arms and if they put in the effort on the park there's no problems.

'And I wouldn't expect anything less from a bloke of Peter's standing in the game.'

With 10 seasons of National League experience under his belt, Youth World Cup, Olyroos and Atlanta Olympics appearances the close in vocal and passionate Breakers crowd will certainly create a great atmosphere for Tsekenis to ply his trade.

Sterrey attracted Tsekenis to Newcastle after Olympic failed to offer him a substantial contract for the coming season and his two-year deal will allow him take a leadership role in the midfield.

Tsekenis has a lot of time for Sterrey and believes the Newcastle side are young team that can achieve in the NSL after finishing just outside the top six in 1999-2000.

Peter Tsekenis: Now a Breaker.

IVANOVIC DUMPED BY ADELAIDE CITY

By Allan Crisp

Major coaching changes at both Premier and State League level are in the melting pot for next season with former Adelaide City and Socceroo sweeper Milan Ivanovic due to be discarded by the Zebras as their Premier League boss.

And West Torrens Birkalla, which tumbled from Premier League championship status in 1998 to bottom of the heap and relegation this season, has offered its State League coaching position to South Australian State team coach Zoran Maricic.

A former NSL West Adelaide Sharks coach, Maricic held the Birkalla coaching post for five successive seasons from 1992-96.

Provided Maricic accepts the proposals of new Birkalla owner Con Makris, his first task would be to boost Birkalla back into the Premier League.

Former Adelaide City champion midfielder Charley Villani coached Birkalla to its last title triumph in 1998, but lost more than half of that squad to rival clubs.

Villani resigned the position towards the end of the season and was replaced by caretaker-player coach Greg Mills.

Ivanovic was given City's Premier League coaching post after his retirement following a magnificent playing career with the Adelaide City Force.

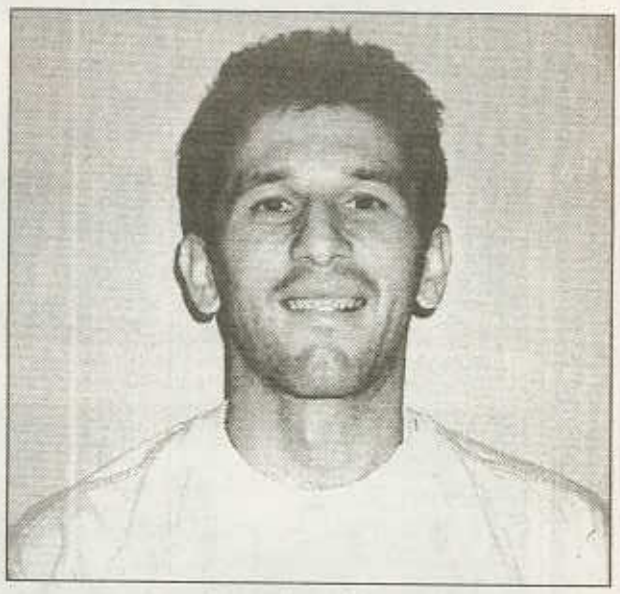
Another City great, Sergio Melta, is favoured to succeed Ivanovic as the Zebras Premier League supremo.

Meanwhile, Villani is being freely touted as successor to Hugo Gimenez as coach of White City Warriors coach for next season.

Ivanovic's name also is being linked to White City, while Villani could step into the Campbelltown City job as replacement for retiring Red Devils boss John Evans.

Former Croydon Kings coach Jan Kierno, who has been inactive since being replaced at Polonia Reserve, also is a candidate for the Campbelltown job, while Villani could be in charge at Blue Eagles should Zoran Karadzic announce his retirement at the end of the season.

Karadzic is likely to pursue a long held ambition to coach overseas.



Milan Ivanovic: Discarded.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PREMIER LEAGUE

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR BLUE EAGLES HOPES

By Allan Crisp

A four minute burst of rash tackling has dramatically reduced the Blue Eagles chances of winning the 2000 Mutual Community Grand Final at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday, August 18.

Zoran Karadzic's lads looked to have last Saturday's second semi-final prize against Modbury Jets neatly wrapped and tied with giant blue and white ribbons after they established a 14th minute lead.

The Eagles advantage arrived courtesy of a splendid first-time strike from Frank Sergi, who connected with a right wing pass from Marcin Kierno to set the Blues fans dancing in the Marden Complex grandstand.

That goal and the subsequent skilful play unleashed by the Eagles underlined why this team had outplayed all others during the home and away series to canter home with the minor championship.

But, the dark side of this great trophy collecting club emerged in the 74th minute when midfield ringleader Corey Artone was given his second yellow card of the semi for upending Modbury's Joe Blefari.

Worse followed three minutes later when wide flank man Jovan Dacic suffered a similar fate after referee Craig Zetter issued another red card, leaving Blue Eagles to battle through the final 13 minutes with a threadbare nine players.

A less talented team would have crashed under the weight of the task, but the Blues hung tight to their slender 1-0 lead to advance straight to the grand final.

But, while the Eagles triumphed, thoughts emerged that they would have done better to have lost this one and gone on to face Port Lion Pirates in Saturday's Preliminary Final.

That way, their engine-room midfielders, Artone and Dacic would be available for the final, which now they sadly must miss through suspension.

Modbury have only itself to blame for failing to rip its numerically deprived opponents to shreds during the excitement charged finale.

But, it must be a huge solace to Jets coach Duane Gray that his charges were able to rise above the humiliating 0-5 and 1-5 scorelines of the previous league encounters against the all-conquering Eagles.

Modbury must now play Port Lion Pirates in Saturday's Preliminary Final after Port toppled Croydon Kings 1-0 in the first semi-final last Saturday.

Dino Sordillo continued to be the Kings party pooper when he scored his fourth goal of the season against Croydon.

This strike carried the most impact, arriving as it did a minute before half time and was the sweetest as Steve DeGioviannello delivered a perfect pass for Sordillo to crash the ball into the net.

Port Lion deserved its success because it accepted that opportunity, while Croydon squandered more chances than the Pirates created.

Jimmy Tsekinis and DeGioviannello again were outstanding for Port, along with George Tsonis, Damien Harley and Paul Martin, but the eye catching performance of the semi-final came from Croydon's Joel Porter.

The new Melbourne Knights striker brought the house down with his show stopping, lightning raids as he consistently outpaced the Pirates defence to create chances for his colleagues.

Porter received a cruel booking for an alleged dive, a caution which would have ruled him out of the next stage had Croydon won.

As it was, the only player to suffer that fate was Port Lion defender Harley, whose yellow card will prevent him fronting up against Modbury in the Preliminary Final.

Despite the loss, Kings coach Phil Scardigno can take solace that he led Croydon to its first West End Federation Cup final success for 25 seasons.

Meanwhile, Modbury will be without star Adelaide City guest player Brad Hassell for its clash with Port after being served his second booking of the finals campaign.

MUTUAL COMMUNITY TOP FIVE SERIES PREMIER LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS

Port Lion Pirates 1 (Sordillo) Croydon Kings 0. Best - Port Lion: Tsonis, Harley, Martin, Tsekinis; Croydon Kings: J. Porter, S. Barbaro, Podlewski, Piotrowski.

Blue Eagles 1 (Sergi) Modbury Jets 0. Best - Blue Eagles: Sergi, Brooks, Zito, Cutillo; Modbury: Hassell, Blefari, Yates, Matosevic.

State League Under 23 First Semi-final -

Salisbury United 5, Para Hills Knights 1; Second Semi-final: Enfield Falcons 4, Olympic FC 2.

State League Under 19 First Semi-final -

Enfield Falcons 1, Salisbury United 1; Second Semi-final ñ Para Hills Knights 2, Adelaide Hawks 1.

State League First Semi-final -

Northern Demons 1 (Salvemini) Cobras 0. Best - Northern Demons: Pisani, Blackwood, Stamatelopoulos; Cobras: D. Makris, P. Harpas, A. Harpas.

State League Second Semi-final

Olympic FC 5 (Demourtzidis 2, Athanasiadis, Parissos) Best - Port Pirie City 0. Best - Olympic: Metaxiotis, Spatharos, Demourtzidis; Port Pirie City: Edmonson, S. Locke, Christopoulos.

Premier League Under 23 First Semi-final -

Campbelltown Red Devils 1 (S. Mitchell (Golden Goal) SASI 0. Best - Campbelltown: Udagawa, Savio, Staltari; SASI: Forde, Waller, Taddeo.

Premier League Under 23 Second Semi-final -

Croydon Kings 2 (Pitucci, S. Pirone) Port Lion Pirates 1 (Matteo). Best - S. Pirone, Kruse; Croydon: Matikulas; Port Lion: Nelson, Hill, Barbato.

State League Under 19 Second Semi-final -

Adelaide City 3 (Widera, Lukin, Mooney) Blue Eagles 2 (Taylor 2).Best - City: Osman, Carbone, Lukin; Blue Eagles: Orosi, Palliazulo, Digrolama.

THE GREEK-AUSTRALIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

is being established by

THE MILLENNIUM HERITAGE COMMITTEE

of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

HONOURING SPORTS CHAMPIONS FROM THE PAST & PRESENT

ANY AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN OF GREEK DESCENT QUALIFIES

DETAILS BELOW:

21. JOHN ANASTASIADIS

Anastasiadis was a member of the under 20 Australian team that played in the World Youth Cup in Chile in 1987.

He represented South Melbourne as part of the Oceania representatives in the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil.

He has also played professionally for PAOK in Greece.

John Anastasiadis

22. STAN LONGINIDIS

Stan "the man" Longinidis boasts an amazing record of having won eight world heavy-weight kickboxing championships.

His record is 78 wins, 3 draws, 6 losses and an incredible 62 knockouts!

Stan Longinidis

23. MICHAEL DIAMOND

Michael Diamond

Michael Diamond was Australia's first gold medallist of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He holds the distinction of being the only Greek Australian to win an Olympic Gold Medal.

Since 1987 he has also won 7 World Cup medals including 4 gold, 4 World Championship medals including 2 gold and a Gold medal at the 1998 Commonwealth games.

He was also the Junior World Champion twice in 1987 and 1989.

24. PETER RASKOPOULOS

Peter Raskopoulos

Raskopoulos was born in 1962, in Sydney and played his junior soccer for the Earlwood Wanderers. In 1977 as a 15-year-old he made his National League debut for the Sydney Olympic SC. In that year he toured with the first Australian Soccer Schoolboys which also included Charlie Yankos, George Christopoulos and Peter Katholos.

In 1979 at the age of 17 he was a member of the Young Socceroos who played in Paraguay. In 1981 he captained the Young Socceroos who played in the U/20 World Cup in Sydney.

Between 1982-1987, he made 37 appearances for the Socceroos including 14 full internationals and scored one goal and captained the side on tours to England and China. In 1989 he retired from playing. The following year he managed the Sydney Olympic Soccer Club to its only National title. He is the current Sydney Olympic SC CEO.

1. Who has been **selected** for or **played** in a **national** team for either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any sport *(e.g. soccer, rugby league, aussie rules, judo, karate, boxing, wrestling, basketball, tennis, cricket, netball, softball, surfing, chess, badminton, kick-boxing, etc)* or

2. Who has been **selected** for or **represented** either **Australia** or **Greece** or any **other Nation** in any games discipline, indoor or outdoor, summer or winter *(e.g. track and field, swimming, weightlifting, shooting, rowing, gymnastics, bowling, skating, skiing, bob-sledding, sailing, diving, cycling, etc)*, or

3. Who has **won** an **Australian** or **Greek** or **any other NATIONAL** sports event, or

4. Who has held a national or international or world **RECORD** in any sports event.

CANDIDATES FOR THE "SPORTS HALL OF FAME" MAY BE:

- Male or Female
- Living or Deceased
- Able or Disabled
- Amateur or Professional
- From All Age Groups

Are you a past or present champion? Do you know of a past or present champion?

THEN CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY WITH DETAILS FOR INCLUSION IN THE HISTORIC PUBLICATION AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

The proceeds will go to The ProviCare Foundation (saving lives from drugs and alcohol) and to Breast Cancer Research

Write to us at: The Millennium Heritage Committee, 242 Cleveland Street, Redfern, NSW. 2016 or fax us on: (02 – 9698 5368 or e-mail us on: heritage@greekorthodox.org.au

providing name, address, contact number (of the sportspeople or their family) and precise details of sports distinctions for each candidate.

Information must be received by 30th July, 2000.

N.B. Achievements must be verifiable!

FOUR MORE ATHLETES PROFILED NEXT WEEK

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne Brisbane 4006.
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XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Brisbane City	24	16	4	4	53	17	52
Brisbane Lions	24	13	7	4	48	24	46
Rochedale Rov	24	13	4	7	43	31	43
Gold Coast City	24	12	5	7	40	25	41
Wynnum	24	9	6	9	34	39	33
IPSW Knights	24	10	1	13	28	33	31
T'wmba Raiders	24	6	8	10	23	36	26
Taringa Rovers	24	5	6	13	22	39	21
Bunderberg Waves	24	4	9	11	18	35	21
Mt Gravatt	24	4	6	14	27	57	18

ROUND 24

Taringa Rovers	0	Bunderberg Waves	0
Brisbane City	2	IPSW Knights	0
Wynnum	0	T'wmba Raiders	2
Gold Coast City	3	Mt Gravatt	1
Brisbane Lions	4	Rochedale Rov	2

AMATEUR DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Inala City	20	14	3	3	55	31	45
Darra Utd	20	15	0	5	57	42	45
Ipswich City	20	10	6	4	43	28	36
Moggill Utd	20	10	4	6	54	33	34
S'side Eagles	20	8	7	5	44	24	31
Goodna & Dist	20	10	1	9	39	43	31
Brothers Utd	20	7	5	8	53	54	26
Peninsula Power	20	8	2	10	36	40	26
Samford	20	6	4	10	32	38	22
South Star	20	6	2	12	35	56	20
Annerley	20	5	3	12	30	36	18
Jimboomba	20	1	3	16	19	72	6

ROUND 20

Brothers Utd	4	Peninsula Power	4
Samford	2	Annerley	1
Moggill Utd	1	S'side Eagles	1
Jimboomba	1	Goodna & Dist	3
Ipswich City	1	Darra Utd	2
Inala City	3	South Star	0

AMATEUR DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bethania Rams	24	22	0	2	154	26	66
Bayside Utd	24	13	5	6	52	34	44
Clairvaux	24	13	3	8	76	39	42
Oxley Utd	24	12	5	7	70	35	41
Pard Ridge	24	12	2	10	70	43	38
Wilston Athletic	24	11	1	12	54	63	34
Woodridge	24	9	3	12	79	78	30
Logan City Kings	24	9	2	13	56	58	29
Pine Hills	24	5	5	14	34	79	20
Mooroondu	24	1	0	23	14	204	3

ROUND 24

Pine Hills	0	Bayside Utd	3
Park Ridge	2	Logan City Kings	0
Clairvaux	5	Bethania Rams	1
Oxley Utd	11	Mooroondu	0
Wilston Athletic	9	Woodridge	0

CHAMPAGNE ON ICE FOR CITY

As Toowoomba Raiders leap clear of wooden spoon

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City has the champagne on ice but it's not being popped just yet despite a 2-0 win over Ipswich Knights, which maintained a six-point lead in the Queensland premier league on Sunday.

With only three matches of the season remaining, Brisbane City coach Danny Wright isn't taking the premiership for granted after his side recently lost two games in a row to bottom placed Mt. Gravatt and Rochedale.

"Losing those two games in a row woke us up a bit and we know we can't take any team for granted," Wright said.

"It's going to be hard for us to lose the premiership from here, but we aren't opening the champagne just yet.

"We need to win one more game to be assured of it and we've got a good run home in the last three games."

Brisbane City hope to be partying after next weekend's away game against Taringa Rovers but have two games at home against Bundaberg Waves and Wynnum just in case Taringa spring a surprise.

Brisbane City were unextended against Ipswich who were coming off two consecutive wins, a feat they had achieved only once previously this year.

City opened the scoring in the 23rd minute when big striker Mark Battistin scored from a Nathan Carlos cross, which followed a quick build up down the right flank.

Battistin played a major role in City extending their lead four minutes before the break when he put Vedran Becirbegovic through a gap to score in a one-on-one with Ipswich keeper Jason Lucas.

Wright believed his side should have won by a far greater margin and if he had a concern it was Brisbane City's inability to put their chances away.

"It bothers me and I've told the players so," Wright said.

"It's like buying the best food and the best ingredients and when someone puts the meal in front of us, it gets taken away.

"One day we're going to enjoy a feast."

Wright also proved he was good in the tipping department after correctly forecasting an easy win by Brisbane Lions against Rochedale.

Lions, Brisbane City's nearest rivals, scored two goals in each half to topple third placed Rochedale 4-2.

Lions' striker Royce Brownlie extended his lead to four goals as the league's leading goal scorer over Rochedale's Matt Olley with a hat-trick whileteenage striker Michael Baird scored the other.

Rochedale's replies came from Olley and Roy Huth.

Toowoomba Raiders virtually ensured they could not finish with the woodenspoon after staging a mini-upset by downing finals aspirants Wynnum 2-0following a goal in each half from striker Anthony Brown.

Mt Gravatt remain anchored at the bottom of the table on 18 points, twopoints adrift of Taringa and Bundaberg who played out a scoreless draw at Jack Speare Park.

Mt Gravatt looked like causing an upset to give themselves a big chance of not finishing the season with the wooden spoon when they led the Gold Coast 1-0 at half time at Palm Beach.

Mt Gravatt took their lead through Drew Oberle but had to answer to a vastly improved Gold Coast effort after the break that netted through Neil Ferguson, Adam Vermillion and Karl Dodd.

Regional Director of Coaching

Brisbane South

Applications are invited from persons interested in a career position with the Queensland Soccer Federation.

Candidates must hold Soccer Australia State Licence qualifications and ACC accreditation.

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Written Applications marked "Confidential" are required by August 18, 2000 addressed to:

The General Manager
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Perry Park, Abbotsford Road,
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These positions are supported by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

CITY TO DECIDE ON UNOFFICIAL SEMI'S

By Glenn Davis

Premiership favourites Brisbane City expect to make a decision tomorrow (Wednesday) on whether they will take part in an unofficial top four series this season.

The Queensland Soccer Federation decided before the season started there would not be a final series this year because of the Olympic Games in Brisbane.

However, the QSF later sanctioned an unofficial series, which will be held at Rochedale Rovers' ground at Underwood.

The final series will be played over two weekends with $5,000 in prizemoney going to the winner.

City coach Danny Wright said he was not against the idea, only the timing, as his club had already organised an end of the season trip to the Gold Coast where they have booked a corporate tent at the Gold Coast races.

Wright said his club had been informed of the final series at Rochedale far too late while several of his players also would be required for State team duties.

The Queensland team has several games scheduled in the coming weeks including a match against New South Wales on the same weekend and others against Olympic teams.

"It's really a distraction for us at this time of the year," Wright said.

"It was decided early in the season there wouldn't be a final series but all of a sudden Rochedale's running an unofficial series.

"We've only been focusing on the premiership and we won't be making a decision on participating in the final series until Wednesday."

Rochedale Rovers will invite whichever team finishes fifth in the premier league competition to replace Brisbane City if they decline an invitation to play in the top four series.

ROUND 25 FIXTURES

August 19
Wynnum v Taringa Rovers
7.00pm

Rochedale Rov v Mt Gravatt
7.00pm

August 20
Brisbane City v B'berg Waves

Gold Coast v IPSW Knights
2.45pm

Brisbane Lions v Toowoomba Utd 4.00pm

Offside

by Michael Schiavello & Jonothan Jackson

BOOK REVIEW

PUB TALES FOR THE TAKING

By Bert van Bedaf

Fasten your seatbelts. Here are some tall tales of mayhem, murder, riots, racism and bull dust.

They are being told in, "Offside", a book of anecdotes by authors Michael Schiavello and Jonathan Jackson. They bring us the "wild side of soccer" and, boy, there's plenty of that worldwide. It's all in a day's work of the beautiful game.

There's the "knife in the back" and "death to the ref". There's thieving and voodoo and things about David Beckham's hairstyle, kidnappings and Mexican dreams.

Eric Cantona's kung fu antics get an airing and Paul Cascoigne's lack of intelligence is brutally exposed.

Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia Italian ventures get a serve and, spare us, there's the story of the goal keeper left standing in the fog.

Ronaldo is sensitively dealt with as he forks out heaps for his mum's birthday as well as the Romanian player who died of heart illness on the pitch and the Benfica star who was electrocuted in the spa.

Not a nation is left unscathed. The Spanish, Russians, South Americans, English, Dutch, Swedes, Nigerians or Germans and many more are given a thorough Offside treatment. .

This is madness, of course. It's a book filled with stories you won't read anywhere else.

From a jealous Fillipo Inzaghi, who wouldn't mind bonking Posh Spice to the Argentine team instructed to "carry on bonking" during the 1998 World Cup. Rude and crude, that's the name of the outrageous collection of good fun in poor taste.

Match fixing, pitch invasions and the rare occasion of a red-carded Pele, this painstakingly compiled madcap avalanche seems stranger than fiction as it hits us like a sledgehammer between the legs.

There's a chapter about money and expensive transfers. Ruud Gullit went to AC Milan for less than $15 million all those eons ago. What a bargain would that be today.

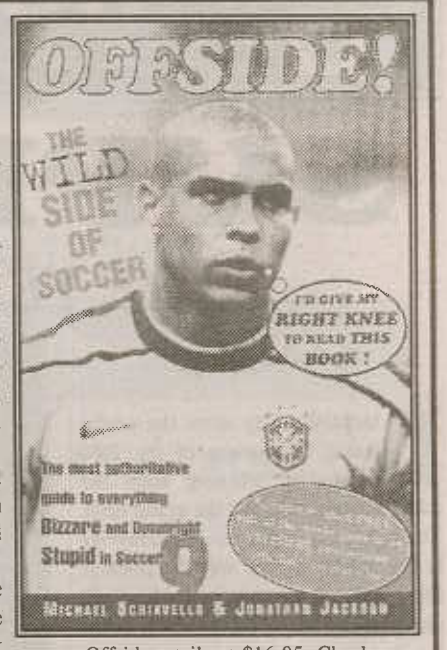
Although the book had anecdotes about Euro 2000, the transfer list is slightly out of date. Is still lists Christian Vieri's $90 million transfer from Lazio to Inter Milan as tops. We now know that Louis Figo has topped the charts with a $96 million move from Barcelona to Real Madrid.

Herman Crespo is also ahead of Vieri with a $92 million move from Parma to Lazio.

Never mind, there's plenty more of trivia to savor as well as the morbid and macabre acts of fans around the world. South American fans set fire to the stadium as flares are tossed on to the pitch. French fans torch cars and Euro 2000 provided specially erected cells for English hooligans.

Lazio fans sing racist songs and Feyenoord fans trash the Rotterdam square amongst other madness and mayhem.

The only thing lacking from the publication is an index. It would have been nice to go to the back and look up how many tall stories there are on Maradona, Gazza or on the refs.



Offside retails at $16-95. Check your bookstores and news agencies.

MOULIS ANNOUNCES PRE-SEASON TOUR

By Graham Cooke

In a defiant [business-as-usual] statement, Canberra Cosmos interim chairman Danny Moulis has announced plans for a three-match pre-season tour of China by the National League club.

That is despite the Cosmos being in the hands of an administrator and with a deadline on a decision over whether they will continue or fold less than a week away.

However, the move is typical of the feisty attitude Moulis has adopted ... a battling approach which has resulted in a considerable improvement in the Cosmos' financial position over the last month.

A week ago the chairman announced that as far as he was concerned the club had the resources to continue, and he would be recommending as much to the administrator, Henry Kazar.

Kazar and the creditors have the final decision, but in the meantime Moulis has decided to assume a favourable outcome.

The China tour has been scheduled for early October, and it is believed a sponsor is ready to underwrite the trip.

Danny Moulis: Tour announced.

However, soccer crowds in China consistently number in the many tens of thousands and it is quite possible the venture will at least break even.

Moulis said the tour will be held in early October and will take in three major cities, including Beijing.

"I've met representatives of the Beijing Football Association and they are very keen for the tour to go ahead," he said.

BRUCE STADIUM TO BE RE-SURFACED

By Graham Cooke

The ACT Government will spend $400,000 to re-lay the entire playing surface of Bruce Stadium in time for the kick-off of Olympic football there on September 13.

That will mean a race against time for the new turf to [take] and will leave officials anxiously watching the weather and hoping for warmer, growth-promoting temperatures during the rest of August and early September.

It had been hoped to avoid a full relaying, but the surface cut up badly when the Canberra Raiders and ACT Brumbies played matches at Bruce on the same bitterly cold and stormy weekend in May.

The final straw came when the Raiders won a home semi-final game last Friday, setting back restoration work by three weeks.

Officials of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games were adamant: the current surface would not be good enough to stage Olympic-standard soccer.

Bruce has been in trouble with both SOCOG and FIFA since two women's internationals were played there on May 31 and FIFA official Keith Cooper rated the surface as 'unacceptable'.

DOUGLAS TIPPED AS FAVOURITE

By Bert van Bedaf

Green Gully captain Steve Douglas is expected to feature strongly at the Victorian Soccer Federation Gold Medal night on Thursday night.

The 34-year-old sweeper has had a cracking year after winning the Victorian Premier League title for a second year in a row and the Cavaliers' best player award for a third time.

Douglas pulled away with 74 votes and was well ahead of runner-up George Georgiadis with 49 votes.

Coach Ian Dobson is favorite to win the coach of the year trophy, but he's expected to get plenty of opposition from Altona East coach Peter Ollerton and Bentleigh Greens coach Gary Cole.

Special guest will be 1956 Melbourne Olympics captain and legendary runner Peter Landy. Landy performed in an era when sportsmanship was still an honorable thing to possess and he displayed it with historical grace.

During the running of the Australian mile title race at Olympic Park in 1956, Landy was content to sit at the back of the field, waiting for the right moment to surge.

Suddenly an upcoming runner, called Ron Clarke, fell in front of him.

Landy was unable to avoid the young competitor and he accidentally put his running spikes into Clarke's arm and shoulder.

Landy stopped to check on his competing runner, but Clarke told him to get on with the race. Landy got back on the track and went on to win the title.

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SUPER LEAGUE 2000

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - SUMMER SOCCER BECKONS

By Julian Murphy

Blacktown City were the undisputed Champions of the 2000 campaign, winning both the minor premiership and the grand final. The gritty 2-1 victory over Bonnyrigg in the season decider was the Demons third title on the trot and they will undoubtedly be the team to beat in the inaugural summer league.

Most of the time Bonnyrigg stepped on to the pitch it was a case of famine or, more often than not, feast. The White Eagles drew only one of their 26 regular season fixtures and were arguably the league's most entertaining side. Whilst finishing as runner up to Blacktown for both titles is no doubt disappointing for such an ambitious club, the young side should be pleased with their effort.

Les DeCelis' Leichhardt side finally fulfilled the promise they have eluded to over recent years finishing an admirable third. The Tigers were the competition's early pace setters and then fought their way through to the season's penultimate game.

Like Leichhardt, St George exceeded many people's expectation with a fourth place finish after spending 1999 in Division One. Most of the first team were new arrivals at the start of the season and it is a credit to them that they blended so well on the field. The Saints were knocked out of the finals in the first week by Parramatta, who couldn't quite repeat their finals heroic's of the previous year. The Eagles only edged in to fifth place but, as they drew a remarkable 14 times, they could have finished much higher.

Peter Gray: NSWSF president will be hoping that Summer Soccer takes off despite competing with the NSL.

For Fairfield it was a case of so close yet so far again. Despite a late charge for the finals, the Bulls poor early season form meant that they had to be content with a second successive 6th place finish. Following the Bulls, in 7th and 8th position respectively, were Bankstown and Canterbury Marrickville. Both the Lions and the Berries lost their coaches midway through the season but showed plenty of resolve to remain competitive. Their mid-table positions were probably a fair indication of where they stood in relation to the other clubs. For much of the season the Central Coast looked a good chance to snatch a finals berth. Unfortunately, the Coasties fell away at the business end of the season and were made to rue some poor performances at home.

John Calleja's Eastern Suburbs commenced the 2000 season with five defeats. They were never able to fully recover but did well to inch up the table. Like the Wanderers, the mountain men from Penrith did well to fight back after a horror start to the season. It will be interesting how the Panthers shape up for the summer league as they will undoubtedly be much improved after this year's experience.

An exodus of stars from Lynwood Park saw Macarthur slip well down the table after finishing 3rd in 1999. The Campbelltown club picked up some good results but a finals spot was well out of reach for the young, inexperienced side. Manly and Sutherland fought it out in the cellar to avoid the wooden spoon. The Dolphins, who had to endure a horror run with injuries, leapfrogged the Sharks on the final day sending the unwanted honour down to Seymour Shaw Park.

There is little rest for the majority of the Super League clubs as the new summer season kicks off in a few months time. The transition to summer football spells the end in the top flight for Fairfield, Easts, Bansktown, Manly and Macarthur. The addition of ACT club Belconnen has created a ten-team competition which, the NSW Federation hopes, will be more streamlined and, therefore, of a higher quality. There may well be a scramble for players over the next few months as some of the bigger names from the clubs not competing will be looking to continue their careers at the highest possible level.

One of the positives regarding the move to summer will be the quality of playing surfaces. It goes without saying that many of the games suffered as a spectacle this year, particularly in the final weeks, because of poor pitches. With no junior football to be played, the grounds can be maintained for the club flagships. All involved will be hoping that the winter wet that disrupted some of the early rounds will stay away over the summer months.

The big question mark over the new competition concerns it being run at the same time as the NSL. Will this effect summer league crowds and public interest from the NSW Soccer community? Only time will tell.

NSWSF LOWER DIVISIONS – ALL OTHER RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO:
MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Greystanes 0 Hurstville ZSC 1.
UNDER 21: Sydney University 4 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3 Pens (2-2 F/T 2-2 E/T).
UNDER 18: Hurstville ZSC 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2 Hills United 3 Pens (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T).
UNDER 21: Hurstville ZSC 0 Hills United 4.
UNDER 18: Mt Pritchard 1 Hills United 3.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE:
MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Colo Colo 4 Balmain 1.
RESERVE GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 1 The Wanderers 0 Extra Time (0-0 F/T).

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Prairiewood United 4 Western Sydney Lions 2.
RESERVE GRADE: Nepean District 0 Balmain 2.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR:
MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Sydney Crescent Star 1 Granville Greenisland 2.
RESERVE GRADE: Springwood 3 Hawkesbury City 4 Pens (0-0 F/T 0-0 E/T).

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 1 United Eagles 2 E/T (1-1 F/T).
RESERVE GRADE: United Eagles 1 Kellyville Kolts 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Parramatta Eagles 2 Marconi Stallions 0.
UNDER 14: Marconi Stallions 3 Wollongong Wolves 1.
UNDER 15: Parramatta Eagles 3 Leichhardt Tigers 2.
UNDER 16: Sydney Olympic 2 Newcastle Breakers 1.

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Sutherland Shire 0 Blacktown City 3.
UNDER 14: Northern Spirit 1 Blacktown City 1.
UNDER 15: Newcastle Breakers 4 Sydney Olympic 5 Pens (0-1 F/T 0-1 E/T).
UNDER 16: Blacktown City 2 Marconi Stallions 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:
MINOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Ryde City 3 Hills United 0.
UNDER 14: Blacktown Association 3 Nepean Association 1 Pens (0-0 F/T 0-0 E/T).
UNDER 15: AC United 2 Stanmore Hawks 0.
UNDER 16: Southern Branch 4 Hajduk Wanderers 2 Pens (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T).

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Southern Branch 1 AC United 0.
UNDER 14: Illawarra Lions 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2.
UNDER 15: Ryde City 1 Southern Branch 0 (Extra Time 0-0 F/T).
UNDER 16: AC United 2 Illawarra Lions 0.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Camden Tigers 2 CSI Schofields 1 Pens (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T).
UNDER 14: Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 0.
UNDER 15: Granville Association 0 MSC Liverpool 1.
UNDER 16: Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 Central Coast Lakers 1.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Blacktown City 2 Wollongong Wolves 0.
GRADE 12: Marconi Stallions 2 Sydney Olympic 1 E/T (1-1 F/T).

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Sutherland Shire 5 Sydney Olympic 6 Pens (0-1 F/T 0-1 E/T).
GRADE 12: Central Coast Coasties 1 Blacktown City 3.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Illawarra Lions 3 Ryde City 2 Pens (0-0 F/T 0-0 E/T).
GRADE 12: CSI Schofields 4 Illawarra Lions 3 Pens (0-0 F/T 0-0 E/T).

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Central Coast Lakers 1 M.D.S.F.A. Cadets 0 E/T (0-0 F/T).
GRADE 12: Hills United 0 Parramatta City 3.

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Mt Pritchard 1 Stanmore Hawks 0.
GRADE 12: AC United 5 Hurstville City 5 Pens (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T).

MINOR SEMI FINAL
GRADE 11: Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 Hurstville City 0.
GRADE 12: Stanmore Hawks 2 Hajduk Wanderers 3 E/T (2-2 F/T).

FUL SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS & TABLES PAGE 15

NSW Soccer Federation
P.O. Box 6024 Blacktown Business Centre, NSW. 2148. Telephone: 9629-1800 | Fax: 9629-3770

— Divisions 1 & 2 —

FINALS FOOTBALL FEVER HITS LOWER DIVISIONS

It's crunch time for Divisions One and Two

By Paul Goodwin

Last weekend saw the start of the Finals' series in both Division One and Two and the Saturday games produced narrow wins for Rockdale City Suns in the former division and Hurstville ZSC in the latter.

Rockdale broke the heart of AC United with two goals inside six minutes, in no small part due to the efforts of divisional leading scorer Spase Najdoski.

The star striker laid on the pass for Goce Trposki to open the scoring only a minute into the game and then sent a free kick high into the roof of the AC net less than five minutes later.

It took all of the first half for AC to find their rhythm and commitment, but they equalised in the 74th after a superb solo run by Enzo Sansone and dominated the rest of the game, though failing to find the net for an equaliser, despite a swag of chances.

AC are eliminated while Rockdale march on to play Fraser Park who lost to Hajduk Wanderers.

The Second Division staged its Major semi final on the Saturday this time and an 89th minute winner by the industrious Robert Babaic provided Hurstville with their second win of the season over premiers Greystanes at Hajduk Stadium. Two late chances which fell to Martin Cassar went begging and the game was over.

Hurstville march on to their second Grand Final in three seasons, while 'Stanes live to fight another week.

In the Sunday games Hajduk Wanderers edged out Fraser Park 2-1 in the NSW First Division Preliminary semi-final at Melita Stadium.

An early Jack Costello free kick had Hajduk in front and a second goal from Jay Anderson gave the side from St Johns' Park a nice two-goal cushion which they held until the 87th minute when Phil Moss put away a penalty for Fraser.

Fraser now meets Rockdale City in the Minor semi-final at Jensen Park this Saturday at 2.30pm.

The Major Semi-Final will be played on Sunday at Seymour Shaw Park at 3pm featuring premiers Dulwich Hill and runners-up Hajduk Wanderers.

The Elimination semi-final in Second Division, played over the weekend at Jensen Park, was a thriller with Hills United storming back to draw 1-1 with Mount Druitt in the last four minutes and then saving a penalty to push the game into extra time.

The penalty shoot-out hero was Hills' keeper Ricky Oppedisano who saved a penalty from the same player he had already denied in the last gasp of the game proper.

Earlier Paul Graham had put Mount Druitt ahead with a fine piece of typical opportunism, while Hills' equaliser came in the dying minutes of the game from a well crafted goal finished off by a Jason Mesiti header.

Then Mesiti missed an open goal in extra time, while Mt Druitt's Gavin Hartge had found Oppedisano too clever in attempting to win the game from the spot.

Hills advance to the Preliminary Final at Rockdale Soccer Centre where they will meet premiers Greystanes.

The only sour note after an afternoon of top notch finals' football was news that cars parked in side streets around Jensen Park had been broken into during the main game with robbery and serious damage affecting several cars belonging to players and supporters attending the event.

RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: AC United 1 (G Sansone 59m) Rockdale City Suns 2 (G Trposki 2m S Najdoski 6m).
UNDER 21: Hajduk Wanderers 1 Dulwich Hills 2.
UNDER 18: Hajduk Wanderers 0 AC United 1 Extra Time.

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Hajduk Wanderers 2 (J Costello 55m J Anderson 68m) Fraser Park 1 (P Moss 87m Penalty).
UNDER 21: Fraser Park 0 Ryde City Gunners 2.
UNDER 18: Stanmore Hawks 8 Rockdale City Suns 7 Pens (2-2 F/T 2-2 E/T).

See page 14 for all other results

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	22	14	6	2	45	22	48
Hajduk Wanderers	22	15	2	5	42	21	47
Fraser Park	22	11	7	4	47	28	40
AC United	22	12	4	6	39	21	40
Rockdale City Suns	22	10	3	9	42	32	33
Stanmore Hawks	22	7	8	7	27	27	29
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	7	8	7	24	25	29
Hurstville City	22	7	5	10	29	34	26
Auburn United	22	6	4	12	31	48	22
Bathurst '75	22	6	4	12	27	52	22
Illawarra Lions	22	4	5	13	21	43	17
Ryde City Gunners	22	3	4	15	21	42	13

Grade U21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC United	22	13	6	3	74	19	45
Fraser Park	22	12	7	3	58	22	43
Ryde City Gunners	22	13	4	5	43	26	43
Hajduk Wanderers	22	11	8	3	69	16	41
Dulwich Hill	22	11	2	9	64	39	35
Stanmore Hawks	22	8	8	6	41	28	32
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	8	7	7	33	32	31
Bathurst '75	22	8	5	9	46	43	29
Hurstville City	22	7	6	9	41	32	27
Auburn United	22	6	2	14	28	88	20
Rockdale City Suns	22	5	3	14	28	58	18
Illawarra Lions	22	0	2	20	13	135	2

Grade U18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M.S.C. Liverpool	22	16	2	4	72	19	50
Stanmore Hawks	22	15	4	3	57	15	49
Rockdale City Suns	22	14	3	5	55	28	45
Hajduk Wanderers	22	13	5	4	45	17	44
AC United	22	13	5	4	47	20	44
Ryde City Gunners	22	14	2	6	54	28	44
Bathurst '75	22	8	3	11	54	38	27
Hurstville City	22	8	1	13	30	39	25
Dulwich Hill	22	7	2	13	28	43	23
Fraser Park	22	5	5	12	43	42	20
Auburn United	22	2	2	18	20	107	8
Illawarra Lions	22	0	0	22	16	124	0

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2000

DIVISION ONE

Minor Semi-Final, Jensen Park

1st-Grade: Fraser Park v Rockdale City Suns, 2.30PM
U-21: Fraser Park v Dulwich Hill, 12.00PM
U-18: Rockdale City Suns v AC United, 10.00AM

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2000

Major Semi-Fina,l, Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium

1st-Grade: Dulwich Hill v Hajduk Wanderers, 3.00PM
U-21: AC United v Ryde City Gunners, 12.30PM
U-18: MSC Liverpool v Stanmore Hawks, 10.30AM

DIVISION TWO

Preliminary Final, 13/8/00, Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre

1st-Grade: Greystanes v Hills United, 2.30PM
U-21: Mt Druitt Town v Hills United, 12.00PM
U-18: Hurstville ZSC v Hills United, 10.00AM

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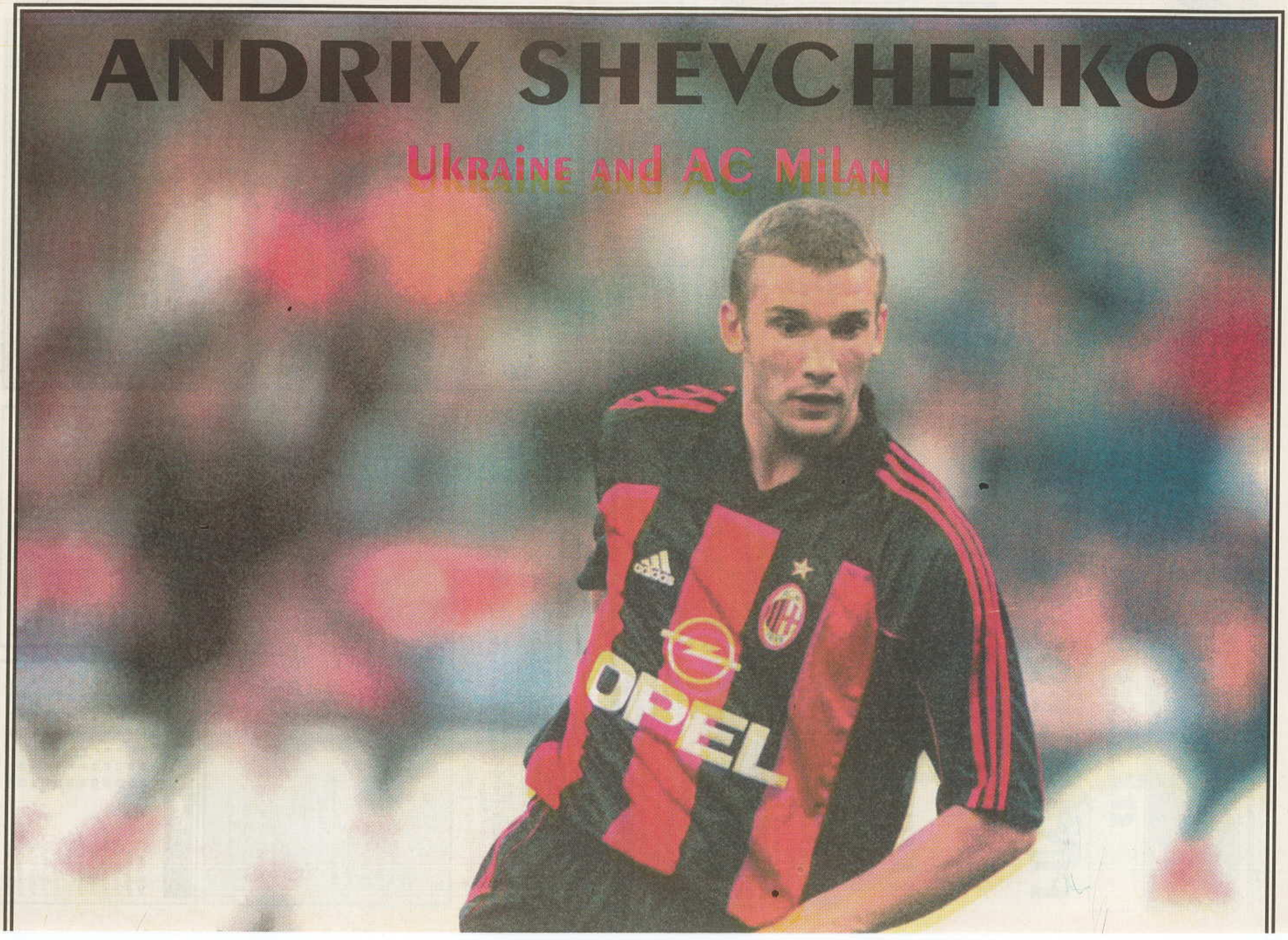

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JUNIOR SOCCER

Marconi host Youngsters in successful Marketing Exercise

By Joe Russo

Last week at Club Marconi a group of Year 8 and 9 Italian students made a visit to the club's premises in Bossley Park.

It turned out to be a most successful day in terms of marketing for Marconi and one that certainly could be followed up on.

The visit was from a group of 681 students - seven high schools combined to make the visit a most successful day and they were: Oakhill College Castle Hill, St John Bosco College Engadine, Cerdon College Merrylands, All Saints Boys' College Liverpool, Freeman Catholic College Bonnyrigg, La Salle College Bankstown and Blakehurst High School.

The students were delighted at the Marconi hospitality and were most impressed with the efficient marketing department of the football club which organised a special treat for the students.

Vlado Zoric, Brendan Renaud, Chad Gibson, Christian Care, Junior, Buddy Farah and Harry Karl were on hand to sign autographs and hand out posters of Marconi to the students plus stickers, football magazines and soccer balls.

A most successful marketing exercise and one that should be used as a basis to reach out to both current and future soccer supporters - the kids! Unless kids are catered for in a big way by the various marketing departments of the National Soccer League clubs, then they might as well close up shop.

Preaching to the converted is useless - adults either follow soccer or they don't. It is at junior level where all the impressions, especially long term ones, are made.

It is difficult to see how any club could possibly survive without a well thought out marketing plan in which the kids are central.

The idea is to reach this lucrative market - just ask McDonalds about their marketing success! Kids bring adults to the game and not vice-versa!

To reach out to juniors is really a fairly simple task - Marconi found out last week and a simple promotion involving giveaways really works wonders.

All clubs should target their local schools and not just by visiting and doing the odd coaching clinic and sending the odd letter. That's great and that's all part of it but the idea is get them to the game where they will buy merchandise (if available), food, drink etc. All money that will eventually flow back to the club.

The easiest way of promoting games and attracting crowds is to give away tickets. 'Costs too much' is an old argument that simply is without foundation. If they didn't have a ticket they wouldn't go anyway!

By building crowds you are building the foundations for the longer term success and it is this longer term vision that a lot of clubs are needing.

As for Marconi and those 681 students, well the only problem is removing the stickers and posters that are causing havoc to the school cleaners! Well done to the club for starting the ball rolling in terms of marketing well before a football has been kicked in the new season.

Brendan Renaud: Signed autographs for youngsters.

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FAMOUS PHOTOS

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P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475.
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soccerweekly@hotmail.com ** All photos will be returned.*

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis profiles some of the stars to come out of last week's National talent Identification Championships

Michael Brown

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Michael Brown
Club:	Parramatta Power
DOB:	6/8/84
Left/Right:	Both
Eye Colour:	Green/Blue
Hair Colour:	Blonde
Height:	167cm
Weight:	62kg
Positions Played:	Midfield

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At

'96 – Middlesborough School Of Excellence
'97 – Camden Tigers
'98 – Macarthur Rams
Spent two years at the NSW Institute of Sport.

Age Started Playing Soccer: 8 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Making the Joeys camp, captaining the under 14 and under 15 NSW state team in the National Titles and going overseas and playing for the Ajax under 16 youth side.

Ambition: Make the Joeys squad, establish myself as a good player in Australia then head overseas.

Words Of Advice: "Train and play hard"

Best Advice Received: "Keep training and give everything you've got" *(Both Parents)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Steven Segal
Favourite Actress: Pamela Anderson

Top 5 Movies?
-Rocky IV
-Scream 2
-Child's Play
-I Know What You Did Last Summer
-Friday

Favourite Comedian: Rowan Atkinson (Mr Bean)

If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Jean Claude Van Damme in Kickboxer.

Best ever concert: Big Day Out

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild 9
-99.3 Volume 3
-NWA
-Dr Dre – 2001
-Skitz Mix 6

Favourite TV show: The Bill
Favourite Cartoon Character: Bart Simpson

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
-Paul Gascoigne
-Peter Beardsley
-Nicole Kidman
-Pamela Anderson
-Arnold Schwarzenegger
-Cindy Crawford

Entrée: Chicken Soup
Main Course: Chinese
Dessert: Ice-Cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Paul Gascoigne
Favourite Overseas Team: Newcastle
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Brad Maloney
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Paolo Maldini
Most Admired Midfielder: Paul Gascoigne
Most Admired Striker: Alan Shearer
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Peter Schmeichel
Hardest Opponent (Played): Anthony Doumanis

Westfield's Sports High student and current Parramatta Power player Michael Brown is one of Australia's most gifted players.

At the tender age of 16, 'Brownie' as he is known by his teammates always puts in and never gives up.

Born and raised in Newcastle, England, Michael arrived in Australia at the age of 12. Whilst in England, Michael was part of the Middlesborough School of Excellence scheme that pretty much started him off in his soccer career.

The National Championships was something 'Brownie' thrived on, captaining the NSW Under 14 and 15 sides respectively. His fondest memory is winning the Under 15's Nationals. "It was a big thrill for myself winning the Nationals in the Under 15's, as it was something big that I achieved and I was happy to have captained such a great side," said Michael.

This young lad who emulates the mercurial 'Gazza' was however disappointed at the fact that a repeat of the Under 15's win was not on the cards in this year's Nationals. "I was upset on the way we lost, I think we had more ball, and we were clearly the team to score next but unfortunately that's soccer for you," said an unhappy Brown.

On the cards for this youngster however is the current Joeys trials, where Michael hopes to be among the 18 selected for the World Cup in Trinidad & Tobago next season. "I hope that the Nationals were enough for me to cement my spot in the team. I know I still have work to do but I'll do my best in seeing that I make this year's Joeys," said the confident midfielder.

Not only has Michael played in England, but he was one of two lucky lads to be apart of Ajax's international camp. "They chose me to play for Ajax for six weeks where I was amongst other boys from South Africa, Asia and other parts of Europe.

Michael Brown: Young but experienced.

They were very impressed with me and I got to play in the Venice tournament for Ajax playing against the likes of AC Milan, Liverpool and other big name clubs. It was fully professional, the facilities were world class and I thought that this trip was the best experience a young person like me could ever have," said 'Brownie'.

Like so many other young players in the recent National Championships at Parklea, this former NSW Institute player has been snapped up by Parramatta Power, a club that is certainly doing many things to encourage a proper youth setup. "I've signed with the Power for two years, where I'll be training with First grade and playing for the youth.

The setup for a youth player is great and I think its becoming like the ones I saw at Middlesborough and Ajax as the coaches and training facilities are really professional," said the English born star.

Matthew Engele

AT A GLANCE

Full Name:	Matthew William Engele
Club:	NSWIS
DOB:	22/4/84
Left/Right:	Right
Eye Colour:	Hazel
Hair Colour:	Black
Height:	6ft1
Weight:	80kg
Positions Played:	Striker

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:

-U13's – Manly Warringah
-U14's – Gladesville
-U15's – Blacktown
Also had two seasons with the NSW Institute Of Sport

Age Started Playing Soccer: 8 years old

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Winning the 1999 Under 15 National Championships in Canberra against Western Australia 3-0.

Ambition: To make the Joeys and play overseas

Words Of Advice: "Play and train hard"

Best Advice Received: "Play hard, play strong" *(Gordon Engele)*

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Jim Carrey
Favourite Actress: Sharon Stone

Top 5 Movies?
-The Rock
-Shawshank Redemption
-Saving Private Ryan
-Gladiator
-Fight Club

Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld

If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? ArnoldSchwarzenegger in 'The Terminator'.

Best ever concert: Grinspoon concert in Penrith.

5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
-Wild Fm 9
-Wild Fm 8
-Wild Fm 7
-2 pac – All Eyes On Me
-Snoop Doggy Dog

Favourite TV show: Seinfeld
Favourite Cartoon Character: Garfield

Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
I'd invite the entire Under 16 Blacktown City squad.

Entrée: Oysters
Main Course: Chicken & Chips
Dessert: Ice - Cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Mark Viduka
Favourite Overseas Team: Newcastle
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Gabriel "Chi Chi" Mendez
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Viduka
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: Paul Scholes
Most Admired Striker: Mark Viduka
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Mark Bosnich
Hardest Opponent (Played): Brendan Dower

There have been rumours that there's a John Eales look-a-like in the NSW Under 16 state team. It's either that or people are just talking about Matty Engele.

This exciting 16-year-old was part of a very talented NSW squad that unfortunately missed out on winning the National titles this year.

This fearsome six-foot-one character nicknamed the 'Ox', was one of the many talented players on display at the recent championships.

The mammoth striker was however bitterly disappointed at losing the Nationals to archrivals Queensland.

"I thought we deserved the win but the ball just wouldn't go in the back of the net. I know the feeling of winning a tournament such as this as I was part of the successful Under 15 NSW state team who took out the Nationals in Canberra. I was overjoyed about our victory there but was disappointed that we could not repeat it this year," said 'Ox'.

His main aim is the 2001 World Cup, and that's making the Under 17's Joeys side. "I really want to make this squad for the up and coming World Cup. Representing your country is something people wish to do and I for one hope I do so," said Engele.

The Knox Grammar student who, like so many, was a product of the NSW Institute of Sport, who this year were the stand out club in distributing many players to National League clubs.

"The NSWIS helped me a lot in these past two seasons as it has made me into a much stronger and tougher player. It has taught me how to cope playing against bigger and much more tougher opponents," said Matthew.

Apart from being involved in the NSW Under 16 state team, Matthew was also on a dual registration this year with NSW Super League winners and premiers Blacktown City Demons.

"I managed to play a first grade game with Blacktown against the Fairfield Bulls, where I thought I gained a lot of experience. It was surely a highlight for myself as playing and training with the team that one the double really helped my game," said Matthew.

Matthew Engele: 'The Ox'.

It has been evident that many clubs in Sydney have expressed their interest in Matthew, and it was also evident that an overseas club has shown interest in this young lad as well.

"I'm hoping to finalise what I'll be doing in the next couple of weeks as I really want to get back to the football pitch and do what I do best, and that's play soccer," said "Ox".

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

Political Manoeuvre

FIFA's delayed decision puts the pressure on Australia

FIFA have done it to us yet again. In what can only be another act of political manoeuvring, FIFA have again held off making the decision on the host nation for the 2003 Women's World Cup, for which Australia and China are bidding.

The matter had been an agenda item for the FIFA Executive Committee meeting held last Thursday at headquarters in Zurich.

The delay in the decision is particularly baffling and frustrating to the Australian Women's Soccer Association, Soccer Australia, and all supporters of the bid.

This is no less than the third time the decision has failed to be handed down. Originally the matter was to be finalised before Christmas last year, then in February, and then now.

The little information that has been given on this occasion however gives the Australian bidders some concerns.

Australia, who first made public their intention to tender a bid during the World Cup Draw festivities in February 1999 and lobbied other nations for their support, are now left floundering with the thought that things may be starting to turn sour.

Australia was all along understood to be the only country to be seriously going ahead with the bid after early whispers of Brazil and Croatia were soon proved to be unfounded. Further notification was sent to all FIFA member countries, but no subsequent bids were received. Australia naturally stuck to the deadlines in tendering their formal bid documentation.

Public declarations of support for Australia's bid were made by two of FIFA's most highly rated personnel.

FIFA Women's Committee chief Per Ravn Omdal congratulated and encouraged Australia for their initiative during his closing speech at the FIFA Women's Soccer Symposium in June last year.

Then, no less than FIFA President Sepp Blatter described Australia as the 'leading candidate' in a press conference held last December. Everything appeared to be well on track.

China then on the other hand came in as a late bid. Australia only learned of their sudden appearance on the scene shortly before they arrived to compete in the Pacific Cup in late May.

It appears rather ironic that the major issue of discussion at Thursday's meeting was the rotation of the men's World Cup amongst the six confederations to ensure that all continents be given an equal opportunity to host the event.

Surely this basic principle must also be applied to women's football, whilst making sure the country in question met all host requirements.

Australia is, in terms of women's football at the top level, relatively new territory and therefore ideal if FIFA is serious about giving new blood an even chance. Australia has proved itself over recent years to be a much more professional campaigner on and off the park, with a well-performed and supported National Team, rapidly growing player numbers, a solid elite level structure, and all the benefits by then of having hosted an Olympic Games.

China however hosted the inaugural Women's World Cup back in 1991, as well as the pilot event three years previous to that.

Now FIFA is saying the decision on the host for the 2003 Women's World Cup will be taken in conjunction with a decision on the first Women's World Under 18 Championship, planned for 2002.

No date accompanied the news, but it is feared there will be quite some wait with the U18 Championship still very much in the planning stages. The decision to establish a junior women's event was only ratified in March this year, and initially announced as possibly kicking off in 2001.

"It's more likely to be months than weeks," a FIFA spokesman said. "It was decided to wait and see how the under 18 competition develops before finalising a position on the senior women's World Cup."

AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher is frustrated more than anybody with this unexpected hurdle.

"What we understand to be happening now is that China will get one, and we will get the other, but we need to stay in the race to get the senior World Cup, which clearly has been our objective since day one," said Fisher.

"The promotion of an Under 18 World Youth Cup, whilst obviously attracting the best young talent, doesn't get anywhere near having the best athletes in the world and seeing the Matildas play against them.

So I think in terms of our strategy making women's soccer realistically the number one women's sport in Australia within the next decade, the senior World Cup is absolutely essential to that goal."

Fisher is clearly not happy to let the Women's World Cup slip through Australia's hands, and plans on taking an active part in ensuring that does not happen.

Sepp Blatter: FIFA president.

"What I think we'll look at is in fact perhaps going over to China in the next week or two and sitting down with them and trying to come to an agreement of who will get what," he added.

"I think China are very well positioned to host a World Youth Cup. They've been developing the women's game a lot longer than us and I think it probably fits in well with their planning.

"Bearing in mind of course that Australia has wanted to host the senior World Cup for three years and China really only came in as the late bidder at FIFA's request. So what I would like to see happen in the next month is that Australia and China go to FIFA with a proposal that they host the 18s and we host the seniors, and hopefully everyone's happy.

"It would be beyond all logic that FIFA wouldn't accept that. But as I said before, that's easier said than done, but it's certainly our strategy."

In explaining our understanding of China's position in this whole scenario, Fisher said, "China told us a couple of months ago they were going to bid but they were a little bit embarrassed at doing that after the close date, and that the only reason they had done that was because FIFA had asked them directly.

The thinking was the reason FIFA did that was to make it a two-horse race rather than a one-horse race and thence put pressure on Australia — ensure we bid and put on a good show.

This delay, in what is obviously a major operation for Australia involving the goodwill and close support of numerous other organisations, has helped no-one. Least of all Australia who is trying its hardest to transfer its recent advancements into creating an even greater niche within the demanding business of mainstream sport.

Needless to say, the many things currently on hold with regard to planning such a major event can not move forward, and time is already starting to get away.

"It's incredibly difficult, particularly in a country like Australia where football isn't your number one sport, and obviously what we're trying to do is put women's football and obviously men's football as a more popular entertainment and a national passion if you like," explained Fisher. "But the problem is FIFA isn't helping us to achieve that by calling all these delays."

Apart from solving this one in our favour, time is clearly of the essence, if the event is to become the success it is planned to be, for the good of the sport in this country.

"Clearly what we have to avoid is getting to a point in time where, as much as I personally and the women's soccer organisation would love to have a World Cup, what we don't want to do is give ourselves that little time to organise it, that it isn't a great event. And we've communicated that fact to FIFA that really every month we lose in terms of knowing that we've got it, makes our task all the more difficult.

"So hopefully, let's say within a month or two, we'll have the news then. I think if it goes any longer than that, realistically I feel Australia would be out of the picture because I think it would be too hard to organise."

MATILDAS IN ASIA

The Matildas kick off their Asian Tour today (Tue) taking on the very physical but proven side of North Korea who placed 10th at last year's World Cup.

Australia have never been beaten by North Korea (two scoreless draws and a 1-0 win in their 1998 tour to Pyongyang).

However, despite their eventual win on that occasion, Australia were pretty much under the hammer throughout the series, and certainly not assisted by the blatantly dubious home town refereeing.

This Matildas team is certainly a different-look side to that which toured two years ago, and it will be interesting to see if they are able to put together more of a creative, attacking stand against such a rugged North Korea.

Alison Forman: Matildas skipper.

THE SCHEDULE

THE DATES

Tue 8 August
Australia v North Korea 5.00pm
Yanggakdo Stadium, Pyongyang
Fri 11 August
Australia v North Kroea 5.00pm
Sosan Stadium, Pyongyang
**North Korea is AEST less 1 hour*
Mon 14 August
Australia v China 7.45pm Yangzhu
Thu 17 August
Australia v China 7.45pm Shanghai
**China is AEST less 2 hours*

USA TAKE NORDIC CUP

The mighty USA can do no wrong at present, last Thursday adding another U21 Nordic Cup championship to their bulging trophy haul for 2000.

The premier youth tournament in the world was won with a tight 1-0 win over hosts Germany, midfielder Jena Kluegel the scorer with a curling drive in the 63rd minute.

The win marked the US' third Nordic Cup crown in the last four years, and their fourth overall.

★★ SPECIAL FEATURE STORY ★★

ALL ABOUT THE IMAGE

Marketing philosophy means everything to the modern day player

Emmanuel Petit had, no doubt, dreamed of what his first, magical, night in Barcelona would hold for him.

Perhaps revelling in a rapturous welcome from thousands of fanatical Catalan supporters thronging the streets to see this World and European champion committing four years to their cause.

Perhaps, as he was still on honeymoon with Agatha, there may have been a few romantic hours in the bridal suite of the King Juan Carlos Hotel.

Either of the above could have been the reason for Petit emerging to give his first interview, bleary-eyed, at 2.40am in the morning.

No, instead, the player and his wife had spent their first eight hours in Catalonia closeted in an ugly, low concrete administrative office with a team of lawyers and agents who were haggling with a minor FC Barcelona director over internet and image rights — plus the new-age minutiae of a modern footballer's contract.

The £40,000 ($100,000) per week net wages, car, house, pension, contract length? No problem, Monsieur.

But the *'www.easymoney.com'* - the right to market Petit's signature, words, face and, perhaps, even his trademark ponytail, that was something to chew over.

So, once the kindergarten work of setting up a multi-million pound contract was conducted, the assorted French, English and Spanish negotiators became embroiled in one of the world's fastest growing marketing phenomena.

Just before midnight it was even necessary to send for the Red Adair of transfers between Spain and France, Joan Font, who arrived at the behest of Petit's lawyer Phillipe Sol and his agent Jerome Anderson to sort out all manner of delicate online nuances.

'If it was up to me the whole thing would have taken five minutes,' said Petit ruefully, blinking at the brilliant glare of television lights pushed towards his face.

Not entirely true, it appears. What Barcelona wanted was to pay their new signing even more money so that he would sign away his internet and image rights.

But with a stubbornness which has become well known to Premiership midfielders, referees and teammates, Petit downright refused.

At stake was the question of who was to earn possible millions from merchandise which bears a trademark signature or picture.

In the UK it was Eric Cantona and Paul Gascoigne who first tapped into this modern day gold rush.

The two respectively negotiated a percentage of revenue of Manchester United and Rangers merchandise bearing their name, signature or picture.

The gambit earned them hundreds of thousands of pounds to add to their already fat take-home pay.

Then, in the early days, internet rights seemed no more relevant to football than a tutu or ballet pumps. But there has been a lightning-fast evolution, which now threatens to become a revolution and almost every significant player in world football owns or licenses a website.

On it, they can bare their soul, react to their latest refereeing controversies, spout poetry — or, more significantly, sell their own products: posters, pictures, merchandise, clothes, cars, wine — anything they like.

The reason Petit's advisors rejected every internet demand thrown at them is that the Frenchman is already contracted, which means well-paid, by his current site operators.

Exactly what he has been paid is not public knowledge. But, by comparison, recent schemes to operate home-pages for Premiership stars have been offering anything from £250,000 ($625,000) for comparative newcomers, say someone like Kieron Dyer, to well over £1m ($2.5m) for world-renowned players — the Beckhams, Owens or Henrys.

To a club like Barcelona, which sent Joan Gaspart to Old Trafford several years ago specifically to learn and implement the marketing system which had sent Manchester United spiralling into the mega-economy inhabited by the world's richest clubs, this is a financial haemorrhage. For example, the internet site on which Marc Overmars broke the news of his own transfer, *www.icons.com*, already hosts the homepages for fellow Dutch internationals, and Barcelona employees, Patrick Kluivert, Phillippe Cocu, Michael Reiziger, the De Boer twins, Winston Bogarde ... the list goes on.

Every time some loyal Catalan fan goes looking for that site to collect the thoughts of his favourite Dutchman that same fan fails to log on to *www.barcelona.com* thereby missing all the special offers of club products from which the club expects to make millions.

'More and more, footballers are becoming a business proposition off the pitch as well as on it,' he admitted. 'It is happening in England as well as in Europe although it is less talked about.

'This is a trend in world sport and in a couple of years it will be more widely understood in England. The transfers are so big now that clubs have to make money if they can and we, too, want to make money so there needs to be an agreement reached between both parties.' Since France '98 in particular, when he excelled throughout and scored the third French goal in their 3-0 rout of Brazil in the final, Petit has become an icon.

To many he is not only a hero but a lifestyle emblem. His words, his looks, his clothes, his ponytail — even his dignified battle against the terrible effect which the death of his brother had on him - have all taken greater significance.

Once it was Hollywood legends or international pop stars who were the benchmark for aspirational teenagers.

Now it is the stars of world sport. Petit's marketing value, which Barcelona want to harness for themselves, is at least equalled by names like Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Beckham, Zidane, Gullit, et al.

Properly harvested they can become as lucrative as brand names. Where once there was Coca Cola, Microsoft, Campbells and Rolls Royce now there are Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus, Michael Schumacher.

Deduct the christian names and there is still instant global recognition.

Petit is not quite glittering in that firmament — but any scorer from the World Cup final has the potential to become an instant goldmine.

Little phrases from the presentation in Barcelona offered clues to his recognisability and popularity. 'Even on the plane coming here the pilot came out to thank me for my time in England,' he revealed. 'And the fans at Arsenal were wonderful to me. Until the last day of my life I could think about how they were with me.

'But this is a golden opportunity for me. There are not many clubs which you dream about playing for when you are a kid but Barcelona is a world name, a symbol.

'Everyone talks about their name and about their players — this is an enormous opportunity.'

The modern international thinks this way. And quite rightly, too. No longer for them the exploitation of previous generations - becoming legends and icons without a fair commercial quid pro quo.

It is just that it has suddenly become several million quid pro quo.

Overmars, the previous day, had shown his own cuteness - that savoir faire which marks a man down as knowing the buttons which need to be pushed.

'Barcelona es mas que un club,' he told the massed media at Barcelona's Prats Airport.

'Barcelona is more than a club,' has long been the Catalan anthem - a spiritual touchstone which will mean the fans take Overmars immediately to their heart.

'I watched a programme on Barcelona once and I was struck by the phrase,' he told me. There speaks a man who already has several booming cottage industries in his name - including the marketing of vintage cars from his home in Holland. Get your words right, get your image right.

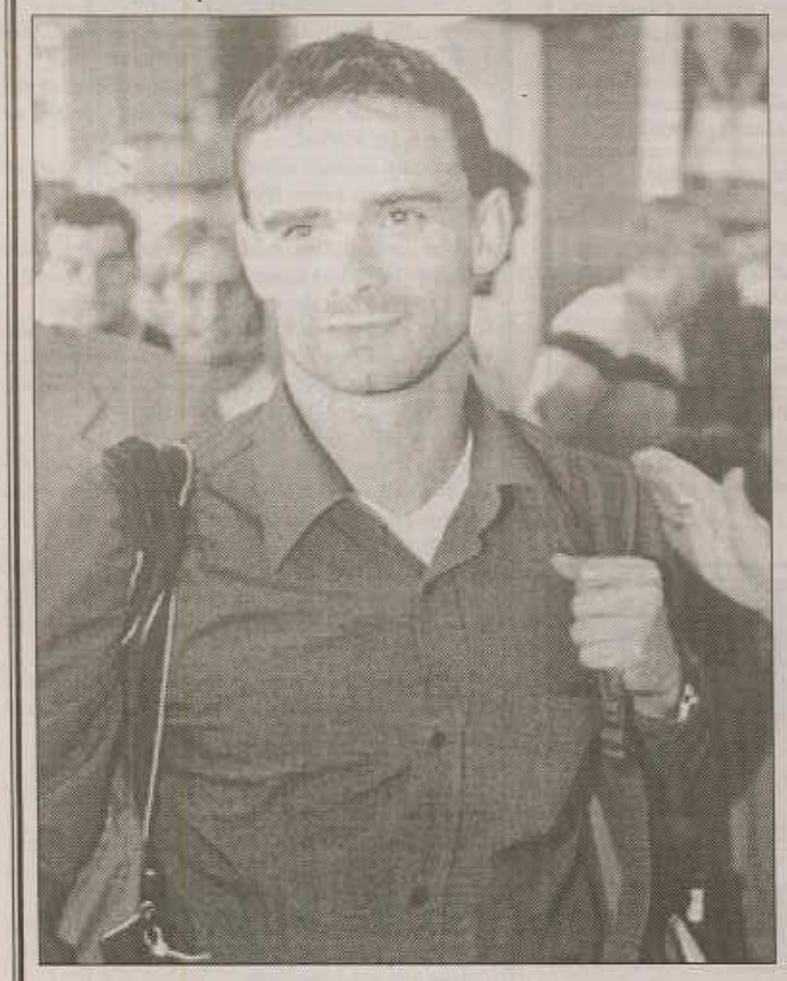
Then sell both. That is the modern international credo. And who can blame them?

Inexorably, we are all moving towards the North American model. Where they have ploughed a commercial furrow we in Europe will follow.

Players will eventually demand intellectual property rights over television re-runs of great goals they have scored and claim the same financial royalties as accrue to the estate of John Lennon and to Paul McCartney every time a radio station plays When I'm 64 (except now it is probably Michael Jackson who owns the copyright).

And, just as those rights can be sold, so players will start building advance royalties on television re-runs of the goals they have yet to score into their contract negotiations. It will happen.

Emmanuel Petit: Multi-million dollar rights for the new Barcelona star.



Marc Overmars: Broke his own transfer news on the web.

"Footballers are becoming a business proposition off the pitch as well as on it."

WORLD

ITALY

Baggio considers Barcelona offer

Italian international forward Roberto Baggio has been made an offer of a two-year contract by Barcelona, the player's agent told a Spanish newspaper.

"Roberto has kept an eye on Spain and Spain has been watching him," Vittorio Petrone was reported as saying.

Petrone said that the 33-year-old player who is currently out of contract from Inter Milan has also been made an offer by Deportivo La Coruna.

"Roberto is considering these offers because Spanish football is on a high after its successes in last year's European competitions," said the agent.

Intertoto Cup finalists Udinese are, however, favourites in the running for the Italian striker according to Petrone.

Roberto Baggio: Considering.

"Baggio likes the team and their humility. They are based only an hour from his house and it is the club where his childhood hero Zico played."

Baggio has appeared in the last three World Cup finals and has scored 160 goals in Serie A.

"Ronaldo's penalty" will not go to trial

A notorious decision to deny Brazilian striker Ronaldo a penalty will not be the subject of a court case, an Italian judge ruled last week.

Ronaldo was denied what appeared to be a clear penalty in a Serie A match between Inter Milan and Juventus in April 1998. He was body-checked by Juventus defender Alessio Tacchinardi as he advanced on goal with the ball at his feet.

Juve won the match 1-0, effectively ending Inter's title challenge and sealing their 25th championship title.

The penalty decision triggered uproar in Italy, prompting accusations of bias and corruption in Serie A, a wave of hate mail against match referee Piero Ceccarini and a punch-up between rival deputies in the Italian parliament.

Magistrates in Turin opened an investigation to see if there were grounds to take legal action against Ceccarini.

The magistrates investigated another four Juventus matches from the same season as part of the probe. All the games had featured controversial decisions which favoured Juve.

But judge Francesco Saluzzo ruled that there were no grounds to take action against Ceccarini or any of the referees involved.

"No elements emerge which are worth following up," he said.

Ronaldo: No Trial.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

The name 'Robbie' is certainly in the transfer news in Italy. The players in question are Robbie Keane and Robbie Baggio — both are involved with Inter in different capacities.

Keane is the 20-year-old Irish international who played last season for Coventry City and recently signed a lucrative five-year deal with the Milan club.

He should prove to be an excellent buy for the club and his combination up front with Christian Vieri and Ronaldo (when he returns from injury) should be amongst the very best that the Serie A has to offer.

The last Irish international to really make it in Italy was Liam Brady. Brady transferred from Arsenal in 1980 to Juventus where he remained for two seasons, followed by two seasons at Sampdoria, two more at Inter and then finally he ended his Serie A career with Ascoli.

Brady had a fantastic run in Italy and Inter supporters will hope that Keane can emulate his fellow countryman in the famous blue and black stripes.

Baggio, however, is on the outer at Inter. It is no secret that he doesn't fit into the plans of coach Marcello Lippi — a dislike that dates back to when both were at Juventus some seasons ago.

Baggio has been strongly linked to two Serie A clubs, namely Reggina and Udinese. The 33-year-old is certainly still in demand in Italy and rightly so.

Baggio will decide on his future in about a week but he would certainly prove to be a very handy buy for either club.

Furthermore, reports in the Italian press have quoted Baggio saying that he would like to be part of the Giovanni Trapattoni's national team for the 2002 World Cup.

It would be Baggio's fourth World Cup and at 35, it would seem a far-fetched proposition, but certainly not impossible if he can show form over the next two Serie A seasons.

Without any doubt in the past three World Cups for Italy he has been amongst the best (if not the very best) players the Azzurri have had. He is a quality player and quality players have always a place in a team despite their age — just ask Roger Milla about that one!

□□□□

Finally classy Argentine, Fernando Redondo, has signed for AC Milan from Real Madrid.

The player, who fell out with three Argentinian national coaches over the length of his hair, should encounter no such problems at Milan.

Ironically, Redondo was on hand to see his new team go down 5-1 to his former team at the San Siro Stadium in Milan.

After this game club president, Silvio Berlusconi, failed to turn up to a luxury dinner to celebrate the launch of AC Milan's season after supporters at the game jeered him.

While it was only a friendly game, the result will send earthquakes through the top Italian club ahead of their first Champions League game this week against Croatia Zagreb.

It may be case of bring on Redondo quickly.

□□□□

Any chance of seeing one of the Italian stars here for the Olympics is over. Coach, Marco Tardelli, has confirmed that he will use no over-age players for the tournament.

The biggest stars will therefore be Inter's Andrea Pirlo and AC Milan's Gennaro Gattuso — both on the fringe of the senior national team.

□□□□

The draw for the new Italian season was released last week and the season will begin on October 1st and end on June 17th.

The opening round has provided some interesting match-ups, namely Napoli v Juventus and Parma v Fiorentina.

The first clash a decade or so ago would have been 'match of the day' when Napoli, led by the great Diego Maradona, were Championship contenders.

The second clash is most interesting because both teams have lost their star Argentine strikers, Hernan Crespo and Gabriel Batistuta, respectively.

Heat is on for Milan and Zaccheroni

There are still two months to the start of the Serie A season and while most Italians are heading for the beach, already the pressure is mounting on AC Milan and their coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

The final event of the club's year-long centenary celebrations ended in whistles and jeers when Milan lost 5-1 to what was effectively a Real Madrid reserve team at the San Siro stadium.

The defeat will have badly dented the confidence of a team who face a potentially tricky Champions League qualifier against Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb.

While the Real match may have only been a pre-season friendly the result was an embarrassment for a club who have set their targets on the Serie A and Champions League titles this season.

"Milan are one of the most famous teams in the world and they cannot create that kind of impression," said club vice-president Adriano Galliani.

"Friendlies don't exist, not when there are thousands in the stadium and millions watching on television. It is now up to the technical staff to find the solutions".

Zaccheroni will need to find those solutions quickly.

The daily Corriere dello Sport speculated that defeat against Dinamo would mark the end of Zaccheroni's tenure and could open the way for former Netherlands coach and ex-Milan player Frank Rijkaard to take over.

But it is not only Zaccheroni who is feeling the August heat.

Milan president Silvio Berlusconi was jeered on leaving the stadium after the match by supporters who feel that he has neglected the club in favour of his political career.

The leader of the largest opposition centre-right party Forza Italia has, in the past, used football as a means of projecting his image as a successful man of the people, but now it appears to be causing him only headaches.

In the late 80s and early 90s the media mogul invested millions in the club, bringing a host of international stars such as Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit to the San Siro and winning three European Cups with a team that played sparkling attacking football.

Although Zaccheroni's Milan won the Serie A title in 1999 they did so without coming close to the levels of flair and entertainment provided by Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello's teams in the early 90s.

This summer Milan fans have become increasingly frustrated as rivals Inter Milan, Lazio and AS Roma have spent heavily, strengthening their squads with big name signings.

In May there were protests from supporters after Milan lost out to Inter in the battle to sign Valencia's outstanding young midfielder Francisco Farinos, prompting Berlusconi to declare that he would bring "one of the top five players in the world" to the club.

Within days of his announcement, Milan approached Manchester United in a bid to lure their England international midfielder David Beckham to Italy.

Having been rebuffed by United, Galliani was despatched to Spain in a bid to capture Brazilian Rivaldo from Barcelona, but again Milan failed to get their man.

Galliani did succeed in signing Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo from Real Madrid but while the 31-year-old will bring some much needed quality to the Milan midfield, he is not the "big deal" that Berlusconi promised the fans.

A decade ago Milan appeared capable of recruiting any player they chose but that is no longer the case and Berlusconi appears to have made a rod for his own back with a promise that has so far proved impossible to keep.

But for coach Zaccheroni the worry is not whether Milan's millions talk anymore, but whether his team can pick themselves up in time to face Dinamo when the heat will really be turned up.

Real Madrid crush AC Milan

REAL MADRID	5
AC MILAN	1

European champions Real Madrid, fielding an under-strength side, crushed AC Milan 5-1 in a friendly match at the San Siro last week.

The result was a blow to the Italian club's confidence ahead of their Champions League qualifying game against Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb.

Milan, despite numerous substitutions, were fielding a near full-strength line-up whilst Real did not field world record signing Luis Figo or any of their players who featured at Euro 2000.

Real opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime with a crisply struck drive from midfielder Guti.

Seven minutes after the break Fernando Morientes extended their lead after a neat interchange with Guti.

Guti, outstanding throughout, then robbed Milan defender Fabian Ayala and slotted home the third in the 62nd minute before Cameroon international midfielder Samuel Eto'o made it four with a close range finish.

Andriy Shevchenko, top scorer in Serie A last season, pulled one back for Milan with an 80th minute penalty but Alberto Rivera completed the rout with a right-foot drive eight minutes from time.

Redondo, who signed for Milan from Real last week, watched the game from the stands.

Fernando Morientes: Scorer.

Watford in record swoop for Spurs duo

First Division Watford have paid a club record 3.5 million pounds ($8.75m) for Tottenham Hotspur's Scandinavian pair Allan Nielsen and Espen Baardsen.

Watford, relegated from the Premier League last season, paid a club record 2.25 million pounds for Danish international midfielder Nielsen and 1.25 million pounds for Norwegian Baardsen — their record for a goalkeeper.

Manager Graham Taylor said the moves were driven by a desire to win promotion next season and were a message to both the existing squad and the Watford fans.

As for the record fees, Taylor assured the club Web site: "We have the money, we're not spending money we haven't got.

"I hope that these two deals are a good sign, both to our dressing room and to our supporters.

"I hope it shows the dressing room that after finding the premiership a bit too hot to handle, our intention is to try and get back as soon as we can and have another crack at it."

For the fans, he added: "I hope they will see these two signings as rewards for last season when they never failed us."

Palace replace Coppell

Former manager Alan Smith took over at First Division Crystal Palace last week after the departure of the London club's most successful boss, Steve Coppell.

Coppell, four times Crystal Palace manager since 1984, left by mutual consent following a weekend meeting with new chairman Simon Jordan.

It was the second time that Smith had replaced him, having also taken over from Coppell in 1993.

"We felt that in order for the club to move forward and for Steve to move forward in other areas, which are his business and his discussions, that it was appropriate that he went and the club moved on," said Jordan.

Former England international Coppell said: "Having come through the survival process for the past two seasons it is in the best interests of all concerned if I move aside to let Simon Jordan bring in his own man."

Last month, Palace came out of administration after running into financial trouble during previous chairman Mark Goldberg's short reign.

MURPHY'S LAW

By Julian Murphy

After running away with the Division One title in 1999, Peter Reid's Sunderland were determined not to slip straight out of the Premiership.

Chelsea welcomed them to the top flight with a 4-0 walloping and it seemed that the magnificent Stadium of Light would be hosting the likes of Stockport and Grimsby again within 12 months. Yet the Black Cats then proceeded to go on a run that saw them right at the top end of the table in the New Year.

The whole English footballing community said that this jostling with Manchester United and Leeds wouldn't last. They were right. But, after a few hiccups, Sunderland still finished a very credible 7th. Perhaps more importantly to their fans, the club ended the season higher on the table than loathed rivals Newcastle and Middlesborough.

The driving force behind the Sunderland success was undoubtedly striker Kevin Phillips. The diminutive target man fired in 30 goals, edging out PSV Eindhoven's Ruud van Nistelrooy for the European Golden Shoe award. Phillips little man/big man partnership with Irishman Niall Quinn was one of the most potent in the league and together they bagged 44 of their team's 57 goals.

Phillips is by no means a six-yard specialist. Although he leaves most of the head work to Quinn, the former Southampton reject has the ability to knock them in from anywhere.

For all his efforts in the 1999-2000 campaign, Phillips still couldn't force his way in to the starting line up for England at the Euro 2000 Championships.

However, with the 2002 World Cup qualifiers just around the corner this may all be about to change. Alan Shearer has hung up his international boots, Liverpool's Robbie Fowler is injury prone, the young Michael Owen's form has been a bit patchy and Emile Heskey is simply not up to it. Phillips has the opportunity to make Shearer's Number Nine shirt his own.

Having said all that, Phillips will be wearing diddly squat if the goals dry up at Sunderland. Everyone on Wearside will be hoping that the motivation to be Kevin Keegan's first choice will drive Phillips on to bigger and better things for the upcoming campaign.

And therein lies Sunderland's problem.

If Phillips succumbs to injury or has a dud season, Sunderland could well find themselves scrapping at the wrong end of the table with Bradford and Southampton. There is a strong chance they'll be there anyway. Phillips has been forced to sit out most of his team's pre-season with a knee strain and, if the club's official website is anything to go by, the town is in a state of panic. "WILL Phillips be OK for season opener?" "Reid not to risk Phillips in friendly." Calm down, I say.....or buy some more players.

On the buying front, I know it's easier said than done. In fact, Peter Reid has tried pretty hard in the off season. Recent acquisitions include Everton's Don Hutchinson and Slovakian international Stanislav Carga. Reid also tried to get Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour but Arsene Wenger 'No Way'd him after Overmars and Petit went to Barcelona.

Trying to go one better than, or even repeat, last season is not going to be easy for Reid. The expectation then was to stay up but now it will be to get in to Europe or perhaps even win something. No one will take them lightly either.

Sunderland fans really are a bunch of moaners. I know they're not the only ones but consider this. After their team started their slide towards 7th place there were many angry phone calls and e-mails to the club complaining about the sub-standard fare that was being dished up. Talk about short memories. It was only a year earlier that the Black Cats were in Division One jostling with the aforementioned Stockport and Grimsby.

And if Kevin Phillips stops hitting the back of the net this season, they'll be there again.

Barthez deal too good to miss - Ferguson

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson paid tribute to Mark Bosnich last week but said the chance to replace the Australian goalkeeper with France's Fabien Barthez was just too good to miss.

Bosnich has been linked with a loan move to Celtic after United signed world and European champion Barthez from Monaco for 7.8 million pounds ($19.5 million) in May.

Ferguson told United's website : "When a goalkeeper like Fabien Barthez comes on the market you can't not do the deal. I have to think of Manchester United."

Ferguson is ready to let Bosnich go after deciding he wants only two senior goalkeepers next season — and that Bosnich would not be suited to a deputy's role.

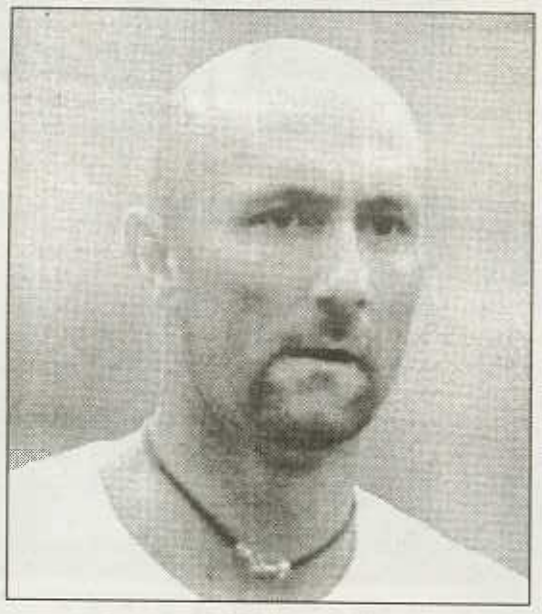
"I have got Raimond van der Gouw who is a very good goalkeeper and will provide great back up," Ferguson said. "He's used to doing that job and he's done it before for us.

"Mark though is not used to being a deputy, so I am going along with him going to Celtic at the moment and we'll see how things go.

"I don't know what will happen eventually — a year is a long time," Ferguson said.

Celtic is only one of several possible destinations according to Bosnich's agent Steve Kutner, who said the Australian would not be hurried into a deal.

"Sir Alex Ferguson is keen for Mark to go to Celtic but Mark will not be pressured into breaking his contractual ties with Manchester United," Kutner said.



Fabien Barthez: Too much class.

Chelsea split with Casiraghi

Chelsea are to stop paying the wages of Pierluigi Casiraghi after collecting 4 million pounds ($10 million) in insurance for a knee injury that looks to have ended the Italian striker's career.

Casiraghi, bought from Lazio for 5.4 million pounds ($13.5 million) two years ago, has had 10 operations since damaging cruciate ligaments in November 1998.

Fabio Parisi, the player's agent, said the six-month notice period Chelsea served on the Italian player will expire on August 17.

But Parisi accused Chelsea of jumping the gun over the 31-year-old's career and even threatened legal action.

"We have appealed to the Premier League about this because his contract requires that an independent medical report is completed and that has not been done.

"We are waiting to see what the FA board or the civil court will decide."

Casiraghi, who booked Italy's place at the 1998 World Cup finals with a play-off winner against Russia, had his latest operation in Bologna last month.

Parisi said: "Of course, it was a very, very bad injury and there is only a slim chance of him making a comeback. But we consider it is still too early to say he will not."

However, Chelsea chairman Ken Bates said: "Casiraghi won't be playing any more.

"We have been paid 4.05 million pounds insurance, which means he can't play top-level football again.

"We gave him 20 months, but he was still walking with a limp, so we had no choice."

Pierluigi Casiraghi: Leaving after 10 operations.

Ricard puts club before country for Boro

Colombian striker Hamilton Ricard has pulled out of a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay in a bid to win a first-team place with Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson is set to complete his third signing of a new striker in a week, with Lazio's Alen Boksic due to join Joseph-Desire Job and Noel Whelan.

Now Ricard wants to stake his claim to a first-team place, even at the expense of his international career.

"It is too difficult to play for your national team and in the Premier League," said the 26-year-old Ricard. "My priority is now with Middlesbrough.

"I won't play against Uruguay next month. Everyone wants to play for his country but I want to concentrate on my Premier League career.

"Colombia may not qualify for the World Cup finals, then all those long trips to South America would have been pointless," Ricard said.

As for the new arrivals, he said: "It is not a problem for me that Middlesbrough have signed new players. New players increase competition and that is good for the club.

"But I cannot afford to be away."

The move was welcomed by Robson, who said: "There is no doubt Ricard has faced a hectic schedule over the past two years. Middlesbrough should now benefit from his decision to concentrate on his Premier League career."

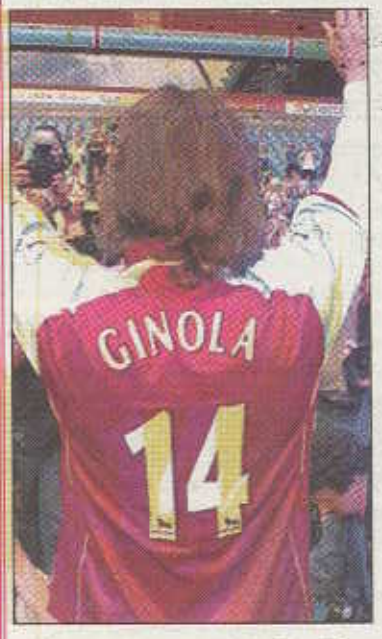
GINOLA JOINS VILLA

During one of the many impasses which hampered David Ginola's epic transfer to Aston Villa, a frustrated John Gregory offered a simple solution.

Never mind the contract, the signing-on fee or whatever other demands and distractions the player might have had. Gregory insisted that if only he could sit down with the object of his desire, man to man, everything would fall into place.

The Villa manager instinctively knew that the key to signing the Frenchman lay not in money on the table but in reassuring words of praise, delivered with sincerity.

In short, Ginola needs to feel loved, valued and truly respected if he is to commit himself to any club. In Gregory, he has found a boss willing to meet those needs.



Ginola parades his number 14 Villa shirt for the first time.

A flamboyant figure who revels in mixing with big names, regardless of reputation or emotional baggage, Gregory is not averse to the odd spot of flattery when needed.

But any indulgence shown towards the close-season signing he wooed so persistently will be dependent on performance and attitude. As long as Ginola plays well and works hard, Gregory will do everything bar grab his guitar and serenade him from the dugout.

But any serious slide in form or, worse still, a perceived lack of commitment would result in a swift souring of the summer love which persuaded a talent with pretensions of Barcelona to settle for Birmingham.

That Ginola is a character who requires that extra personal touch is beyond question. Throughout his career he has carried with him an unshakeable self-belief which dictates that he should be the star attraction, the entertainer who must be cosseted rather than cajoled, praised not pushed.

Repeatedly, he has said that he does not want special treatment. Yet, almost in the same breath, he complains to friends that he has been substituted or left out - just like any ordinary player - when he is clearly the most important and dangerous man in the team.

He has also confided to those close to him that, on occasions, all he wanted was a pat on the back from a boss — a little gesture, a sign that he was appreciated.

This is a sensitive soul who moved to England in July 1995 because Kevin Keegan inspired him with his enthusiasm and admiration for talent and flair. The then Newcastle manager's charm, as well as a promise that he would always be adored by the Geordie fans and valued by his team-mates, was as important as the salary offered by Sir John Hall.

Earlier in his career, Ginola admitted that he chose Paris Saint-Germain over Marseille — the team of his native south — simply because PSG manager Artur Jorge made him feel wanted. He loved the way Jorge would applaud his training-ground displays of skill, constantly rekindling his enthusiasm with praise.

There is, of course, a downside to having such delicate personalities in the dressing-room.

Denied regular care and attention, they can easily become disheartened.

So it was when Kenny Dalglish took over at Newcastle. Within moments of meeting his dour new boss, Ginola knew his days at St James' Park were numbered, because he would never be appreciated fully, never be lauded.

The same problems arose at White Hart Lane when George Graham arrived as manager.

From day one, Ginola was under pressure and felt undervalued. Before his move he told friends he was fed up with being a scapegoat for every defeat and that constantly being substituted — 17 times last season — was an act of disrespect by the manager.

Many coaches would take one look at Ginola's record — the only winner's medal he has won in five years in England was for the 1999 Worthington Cup — and conclude that, for all his undoubted quality, he isn't worth the trouble.

Not Gregory, the man who paid £6.75million ($16.8m) for the bundle of emotional turmoil that is Paul Merson and bust internal organs in the failed pursuit of the outrageously talented but occasionally anonymous Juninho.

David Ginola signs autographs on arrival at Villa Park.

Put bluntly, the man loves stars. The bigger, the better. He likes rubbing shoulders with them, recognises their importance in keeping a club like Villa in the spotlight and sees recruiting celebrities as a way of increasing his own popularity.

Gregory, never one to shy away from the limelight, may even see a bit of himself in Ginola.

Anyone expecting a clash of egos, however, is mistaking Gregory's brashness for something more dangerous.

He has no desire to be bigger than the players, no pretensions about outshining the entertainers on the field, and he recognises that not every character responds to the same motivational techniques.

All he will ask is that Ginola tries to fit into the dressing-room — a problem for Stan Collymore — and produces on the park.

There is also Gregory's insistence on players living within easy commuting distance of Villa Park. Any reluctance to spend at least a few days a week in the area will not go down well.

Ginola's agent has said that a tour of the residential areas of Birmingham had helped persuade the Frenchman to agree terms with Villa, adding that 'the sensitivity of the people' had also been a key factor.

Sounds promising. As long as the compliments keep flowing, Ginola and Gregory may just make the perfect couple.

KEWELL NOT FOR SALE

Leeds United chairman Peter Ridsdale has vowed that Australian winger Harry Kewell will not be leaving the Premier League club despite reported interest from Barcelona.

The Spanish giants, who last weekend bought Arsenal's Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit are being repeatedly linked with Kewell.

He is currently in talks with Leeds about securing a new deal.

Ridsdale said: "Harry Kewell has been with us since he was 16, we are speaking to him about a new contract and we have just made our first proposal to him for a new contract, so he is going nowhere.

"We are a public company and my responsibility is to the shareholders, but the responsibility is also to win things, and you don't win things by selling your best players," Leeds's official Web site reported him as saying.

"As far as we are concerned all this home-grown talent that we have nurtured to get into the first 11 means that we want them to stay to win trophies with Leeds United.

Harry Kewell: Priceless.

"Harry Kewell is not for sale."

Ridsdale said some players that have been bought by English clubs were "mercenaries" and that he was trying to engender loyalty into Leeds players.

"The players you see being traded at the moment are what I call mercenaries, they come in for a period of time to this country and they go out again," he said.

"One of the things we are trying to engender at Leeds is that if you grow the talent through your youth system there is a certain amount of loyalty and belonging. Manchester United have demonstrated that over the past seven years and we are trying to emulate that as well.

"I am in the game with Leeds United of making sure that we build this club for the long term, because that's when the supporters and the shareholders get the benefits."

Figo Back to Work

It was back to work with a difference for ex-Barcelona star Luis Figo as he trained with his former arch-rivals at Real Madrid last week.

The world's most expensive player joined his new team mates for the first time at Real Madrid's training ground just a short distance from the club's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Together with Real's other returning internationals, Figo completed a light session consisting of little more than some gentle stretching exercises and a few laps around the ground.

Dressed like his team mates in the all blue training kit of his new club, Figo was in pensive mood, barely acknowledging the polite applause from the several hundred fans who watched the session.

But with the fans following Figo's every move as he jogged around the pitch there was little doubt that the club's new $96.1 million investment was what they had come to see.

Luis Figo: Trains with new teammates at Real Madrid.

Sticking close to Spanish international Raul, the two players exchanged brief words during the training session which was led by team captain Fernando Hierro.

Their laps were punctuated by sporadic shouts in favour of Fernando Redondo who left the club for AC Milan in controversial circumstances last week.

The Argentine midfielder moved to the Italian club just days after pledging his future to Real.

In a brief press conference after the training session Figo cut a more relaxed figure than at his presentation last week.

"There is a good atmosphere at the club," he said. "I have been very well received by the other players."

He was frank in his comments about the difficulties of changing clubs to play for Barcelona's eternal rivals.

"It wasn't an easy decision and it isn't going to be easy to adapt, but my new club has done everything to make me happy here."

Weah joins Manchester City

Former world player of the year George Weah has joined Manchester City on a two-year contract, the newly-promoted English Premier League side announced last week.

George Weah: New club.

Manager Joe Royle told City's Clubcall service that the Liberian striker, allowed a free transfer by Italy's AC Milan, had agreed terms.

Weah, 33, was loaned to Chelsea last season but was not offered a permanent position there.

"He's a great man, you can feel the presence about him," said Royle, who moved quickly when he heard Weah was a free agent. "He's tri-lingual, a politician but most of all a goalscorer.

"It's all gone through very quickly and the man's excited about playing for Man City.

"It's a big statement as to how the club feels and which way we are going," the manager added.

Real Madrid sign midfield duo

Real Madrid completed the signings of Brazilian international Flavio Conceicao and Frenchman Claude Makelele last week as their hectic pre-season spending spree continued.

Flavio joins from Spanish champions Deportivo Coruna for 4,100 million pesetas ($22.25 million), according to Real's official TV station, while Makelele's move from Celta Vigo cost 1,800 million pesetas ($9.77 million).

Both players have signed six-year contracts. Real have now added seven players to the squad that won the Champions League last season.

Luis Figo's $96 million move from Barcelona made headlines the world over but there have been other several signficant arrivals at the Bernabeu this summer.

Spanish international winger Pedro Munitis has joined from Racing Santander, along with Atletico Madrid's Argentine midfielder Santiago Solari and Albert Celades from Celta Vigo.

A deal to bring in Valladolid keeper Cesar Sanchez was finalised last year and he will vie with Iker Casillas for the number one slot.

Real Madrid rarely comment on transfer fees for their players but their spending on the seven new arrivals has been well in excess of $100 million.

To compensate somewhat, the sales of Nicolas Anelka to Paris St Germain, Fernando Redondo to AC Milan and Christian Karembeu to Middlesbrough have brought in a little over $50 million.

"The squad is practically closed to new signings now," said Real director Jose Martinez Pirri. "There will be more players sold or loaned out, though, as we look to get the size of the squad down."

Flavio Conceicao (left) and Claude Makelele (right) flank Madrid great Alfredo Di Stefano.

The arrival of Flavio and Makelele leaves Real with an embarrassment of riches in midfield.

Fellow new boys Celades and Solari will also be pushing for just two positions in the centre of midfield, along with established playuel Sanchis, Geremi and Ivan Helguera.

Suker says goodbye and sorry

World Cup Golden Boot winner Davor Suker said goodbye to Premier League Arsenal by thanking manager Arsene Wenger for the chance to play in England and apologising to Arsenal fans for a penalty miss in last season's UEFA Cup final.

The Croatian international, who joined fellow Premier League club West Ham in a free transfer in June, also thanked the Arsenal fans for the way they took him to their hearts in the year he spent at Highbury.

"I had a good relationship with Arsene Wenger and made a number of friends who I will always remember," Suker said on Arsenal's official Web site.

"I really enjoy living London and I didn't want to leave the Premier League.

"I would like to thank the Arsenal fans for the great reception they always gave me," he added.

Suker's first-team opportunities at Arsenal were limited with the impact that French international Thierry Henry made in his first season.

But Suker, who won the World Cup Golden Boot in 1998, still netted 11 goals for the north London club.

Davor Suker: Sorry.

"We had some quality strikers at Arsenal and if you ask any big name player, they all want to play in the first team. There was great competition for places."

Suker's repeated his apologies for his penalty miss in the UEFA Cup Final against Copenhagen in what proved to be his final match for Arsenal.

"The penalty miss against Galatasaray was my fault and I am still very angry about it. I want to apologise to the Arsenal fans for that mistake.

Rivaldo to stay

Barcelona have agreed a deal to keep Rivaldo at the club for the next three years, putting paid to speculation linking the Brazilian forward with a move to AC Milan.

Rivaldo had talks with Barcelona president Joan Gaspart late last week before hammering out an agreement that some reports suggest will make him the highest paid player in the world.

Neither the club nor Rivaldo would comment on the details of the contract but the World and European Player of the Year is sure to see a vast increase in his former salary.

Barcelona-based *Sport* newspaper reckoned the new deal would net him some 850 million pesetas ($4.69 million) a year for the remaining three seasons of his contract.

Madrid sports dailies put the figure at a staggering 1,100 million pesetas ($6.07 million) a year after tax.

"I've always said that I wanted to stay at Barcelona," said Rivaldo as he emerged from the late-night meeting at the Nou Camp. "I was always confident that I'd be staying.

"I've always been happy here and now I'm even happier to be staying."

Italian giants AC Milan had been leading the chase for a player who was involved in a long-running dispute over his contract with former Barca president Josep Lluis Nunez.

Gaspart, who took over as Barca boss last month, pledged during his election campaign that he would resolve the dispute and keep Rivaldo at the Nou Camp.

"My priority was to make sure that Rivaldo was happy," said Gaspart after clinching Rivaldo's signature on the improved contract, which will see the Brazilian almost double his salary.

"The deal we've done does not go against the economic philosophy of the club."

Rivaldo has emerged over the last couple of seasons as one of the stars of the world game but his form fell away sharply towards the end of last term and there had been increasing speculation that his spat with Nunez would see him leave the club.

The player is now due to hook up with his team mates at the Barcelona training camp in Hoenderloo in the Netherlands.

Rivaldo: No move.

Fergie clears way for Bosnich move

Mark Bosnich: Path cleared.

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has cleared the way for Mark Bosnich to move to Celtic on a year's loan deal.

Ferguson — who has made it clear that new signing Fabien Barthez will be first choice keeper at Old Trafford — believes Bosnich is too good to be deputy.

He has given him the chance to play regular first team football with Martin O'Neill's Glasgow giants.

And he explained: "It was hard for him to come from Aston Villa last year to follow Peter Schmeichel, but he has had a good term.

"However, when a goalkeeper like Fabien Barthez comes on the market you can't not do the deal. I have to think of Manchester United.

"I have got Raimond van der Gouw, who is a very good goalkeeper and will provide great back up.

"He's used to doing that job and he's done it before for us.

"Mark, though, is not used to being a deputy, so I am going along with him going to Celtic at the moment and we'll see how things go. I don't know what will happen eventually — a year is a long time."

But the details of the loan deal have still to be agreed despite Ferguson's willingness to sanction the move.

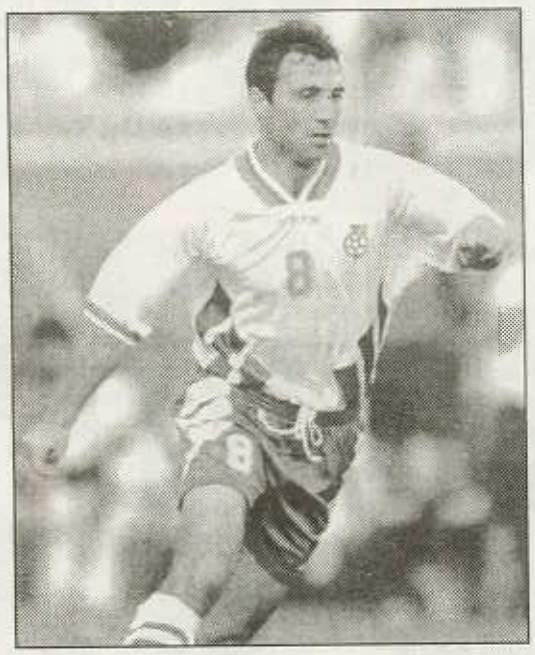
WORLD

Archibald tries to lure Stoichkov

Former European footballer of the year Hristo Stoichkov, who has graced the world's great soccer stages during a sparkling career for Barcelona and Bulgaria, has been invited to join Scottish First Division club Airdrie.

Airdrie's new owner Steve Archibald, the former Barcelona and Scotland striker, confirmed that he has spoken to the Bulgarian, 37, who is currently playing with Chicago Fire in the United States.

Archibald bought Airdrie three weeks ago and believes he can tempt the former idol of the Nou Camp to New Broomfield, Airdrie's 10,000-seat stadium.



Hristo Stoichkov: Could go to Scotland.

Archibald said: "It is not a publicity stunt, there is a very real chance of Hristo coming to Scotland. He is under contract to Chicago Fire until December but I would be willing to wait before bringing him to Airdrie.

"He has promised to get in touch immediately he has made up his mind about his future, but he is still an exciting talent and he could do a great job for us."

Archibald and Stoichkov both played for Barcelona, though at different times. Archibald, who has a home in Barcelona, last week signed up seven Spanish players for his new club.

Lawyer says Turk did not kill Leeds fans

The lawyer for a Turkish suspect in the April murder of two British soccer fans in Istanbul said his client had been involved in street brawls the night of the crimes but was not guilty of the killings.

Leeds United fans Christopher Loftus and Kevin Speight were stabbed to death in clashes around Istanbul's central Taksim Square on the eve of a UEFA Cup semi-final match against Galatasaray.

The lawyer for murder suspect Ali Umit Demir told reporters after a court hearing that his client was not responsible for the deaths. He disputed the results of blood sample analysis carried out on a knife.

"The man he stabbed is still alive," he said.

Three others face murder charges in connection with the killings. Sixteen more are accused of assault, taking part in a fight which led to murder, and "assaulting the dead".

The prosecution has suggested extenuating circumstances which could lead to reduced sentences if the defendants are found guilty.

The court has heard testimony that drunken English supporters provoked the suspects. Demir told judges in an earlier hearing he saw some Britons urinating on a Turkish flag.

Murder normally carries a sentence of 24 to 30 years under Turkish law. Assault carries a sentence of two to five years and taking part in a murder from six to 15 years.

The case was adjourned until August 24.

Two keepers score in same match

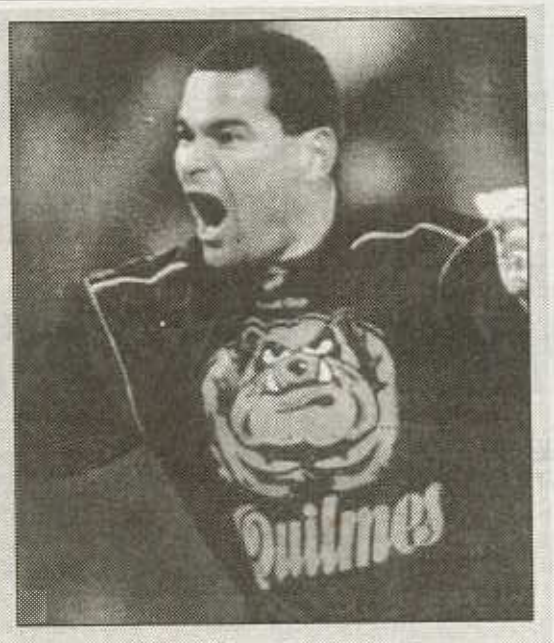
Both goalkeepers scored penalties in a Copa Mercosur match between Argentine clubs River Plate and Velez Sarsfield last week.

Paraguayan international Jose Luis Chilavert, a celebrated penalty taker who has scored more than 50 goals at club and international level, rifled home for Velez Sarsfield in the first half.

But Argentinian international Roberto Bonano converted his first ever penalty kick midway through the second half to earn River Plate a 2-1 victory.

Bonano appeared to disobey coach Americo Gallego, who was seen shaking his head on the touchline.

The Copa Mercosur is a made for television event in which the 20 teams, from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, are hand-picked by the organisers.



Jose Chilavert: Scores again.

Portugal recall Oliveira

Former national soccer coach Antonio Oliveira was reappointed manager of the Portuguese team with the job of ensuring the country qualifies for the 2002 World Cup Finals.

Oliveira, who held the job for two years until 1996, takes over from Humberto Coelho who resigned following Portugal's defeat by France in the semifinals of this summer's European Championships.

The decision of the Football Federation to appoint the temperamental Oliveira, who won two Portuguese league titles as manager of Porto after leaving the national squad, had been widely expected.

His success with Porto, with national titles in 1997 and 1998, apparently gave him the edge over his closest rival Carlos Queiroz, another former national squad coach.

Oliveira faces a tough task in matching the success of Coelho, whose team was one of the most entertaining of Euro 2000.

Ajax dwarfed by big spenders

Transfer talk left Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam standing in the corner at their own party last week as their big-spending guests discussed their record transfer deals.

Ajax are hosting the friendly 'Amsterdam tournament' featuring themselves, Lazio, Barcelona and Arsenal, but the most successful Dutch club in history are out of their league when it comes to spending.

Lazio's Sven-Goran Eriksson and Barcelona coach Llorenc Serra Ferrer have had money to burn this year, with Arsene Wenger of Arsenal on the receiving end of a fair lump of it and also spending a few million.

Ajax boss Co Adriaanse, in contrast, has only spent a small amount on a handful of little known players.

Lazio have splashed out on Argentine Hernan Crespo, on two Udinese players who will start the 2001-2002 season, and are still keen on signing Dutch winger Boudewijn Zenden.

Barcelona have spent on Arsenal's Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit and Valencia midfielder Gerard, while the North London side boosted their ranks with French international Robert Pires and Brazilian midfielder Edu.

"To win the Italian league or the Champions League you need money. You need good players so you need money," Eriksson said.

"It's a crazy world we live in, especially in Italy. As long as the public come, television buys our games, then we are happy," he said at a pre-tournament news conference.

Wenger, who acknowledged his side had lost two good players in Overmars and Petit, appeared to be laughing all the way to the bank having made a profit of around 20 million pounds ($50m) on the duo he signed three years ago.

"Football produces a lot of money – we shouldn't complain about that," said the Frenchman.

"Money is good. You have to be realistic. You can only win if you have great players, but you can only win if these players want to stay at the club," he said.

Overmars in particular was said to be eager to leave Highbury, saying his move to Barca was a dream come true.

"It was a good mixture of them wanting to go and us making a good deal. They gave three magnificent years to Arsenal.

"Unfortunately they left but life goes on and I still feel we have a great side," Wenger said.

Adriaanse, who takes over a youthful and largely unknown Ajax team at the start of this season, noted no reporters asked him questions about cash — but he gave an answer anyway.

"The problem is not the money but buying the right player.

"Every coach has the same problem in that all the players are sold out," he said.

"Rich or poor, it was all about finding the right player to fill the right role," he said.

"If you don't have money then you have to be more creative as a coach, think with a new vision and develop players. That fills your heart more if you are an ambitious coach."

Juninho joins Vasco

Juninho is to join Brazilian side Vasco da Gama on a season's loan from Atletico Madrid, the Spanish club confirmed last week.

In addition to the loan deal, Juninho agreed to extend his contract with Atletico for an extra year until 2003, so the Spanish club can keep the forward for two more seasons when he returns from Brazil.

Juninho: On loan to Vasco.

Although Juninho acknowledged he was not keen on another loan deal, he said he was anxious to concentrate on football again after recent uncertainty about his future.

"I hope to return to play football 100 percent. I've been through some difficult times and now I'm keen to succeed wherever it may be," he said.

The announcement ends months of speculation about the future of the Brazilian, who returned to the relegated Spanish club after a season on loan at his former English Premier League club Middlesborough.

Juninho joined Atletico from Middlesborough for $19.78 million in 1997, but struggled to find the form to justify his price.

A serious ankle injury blighted his first season and caused him to miss out on selection for Brazil's World Cup squad.

The player's fortunes were also influenced by the frequent changes of coach at the Madrid club.

Although he became a favourite of Atletico coach Radomir Antic, he did not figure in the plans of either of the club's Italian coaches, Arrigo Sacchi and Claudio Ranieri.

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until August 9)

1	Brazil	70	Congo DR	139	Swaziland
2	France	71	Kuwait	140	Bangladesh
3	Czech Republic	72	Bolivia	141	St Kitts & Nevis
4=	Spain	73	Zimbabwe	142	Korea DPR
4=	Argentina	74	Cuba	143	Antigua & Barbuda
6	Italy	75	Latvia	144	Lesotho
7	Portugal	76	Algeria	145	Burundi
8	Netherlands	77	Estonia	146	Ethiopia
9	Germany	78	Burkina Faso	147	Bermuda
10	Norway	79	Senegal	148	Sri Lanka
11	Yugoslavia	80	Bosnia-Herzegovina	149	Maldives
12	Romania	81=	Haiti	150=	Benin
13	Mexico	81=	Iraq	150=	Andorra
14	Croatia	83	FYR Macedonia	152	Botswana
15	England	84	Guinea	153	Gambia
16	Denmark	85	Mali	154	Dominican Republic
17	Colombia	86	Qatar	155	Rwanda
18	Sweden	86	Namibia	156	Laos
19	Paraguay	88	Togo	157	Mauritania
20	United States	89	Armenia	158=	Dominica
21	Scotland	90	Albania	158=	Cape Verde Islands
22	Chile	91	Gabon	160	Cayman Islands
23	South Africa	92	El Salvador	161	Chinese Taipei
24	Russia	93	Barbados	162	Surinam
25	Morocco	94	Moldova	163	Yemen
26	Slovakia	95=	Northern Ireland	164	San Marino
27	Tunisia	95=	New Zealand	165	Nepal
28	Belgium	97	Syria	166	Vanuatu
29	Turkey	98=	Congo	167=	Kyrgyzstan
30	Ukraine	98=	Indonesia	167=	Chad
31	Greece	100	Singapore	169	Cook Islands
31	Israel	101	Vietnam SR	170	British Virgin Is.
33	Egypt	102=	Wales	171	Palestine
34	Cameroon	102=	Jordan	172=	Netherlands Antilles
35	Uruguay	104	Oman	172=	Eritrea
36	Austria	105	Azerbaijan	174	Samoa
37=	Trinidad & Tobago	106	Belarus	175	Guinea-Bissau
37=	Korea Republic	107	Mozambique	176	Niger
39	Ireland Republic	108	Kenya	177=	Macao
40	Iran	109	Malawi	177=	Cambodia
41=	Poland	110	Lebanon	179	Philippines
41=	Slovenia	111	Malaysia	180	Bahamas
43	Zambia	112=	Liberia	181	Central African Rep.
44	Peru	112=	Venezuela	182	Guyana
45	Angola	114	Uganda	183	Tonga
46	Japan	115	India	184=	Aruba
47	Bulgaria	116	Kazakhstan	184=	Belize
48	Saudi Arabia	117	Malta	186	Sao Tome e Principe
49	Cote d' Ivoire	118	Faroe Islands	187	Pakistan
50	Hungary	119	Panama	188=	Papua New Guinea
51=	Honduras	120	St Vincent/Gr	188=	Nicaragua
51=	Finland	121	Hong Kong	188=	Brunei Darussalam
53=	Nigeria	122	Madagascar	191	Seychelles
53=	Ghana	123	Turkmenistan	192	Equatorial Guinea
55	Canada	124	Myanmar	193	Puerto Rico
56	Iceland	125	Mauritius	194	Djibouti
57	UAE	126	Tahiti	195	Somalia
58=	Switzerland	126	Bahrain	196	US Virgin Islands
58=	Thailand	128	St Lucia	197	Mongolia
60	Jamaica	129	Libya	198	Anguilla
61	Uzbekistan	130=	Sudan	199	Turks and Caicos Islands
62	Cyprus	130	Solomon Islands	200	Guam
63=	**AUSTRALIA**	132	Tajikistan	201	Montserrat
63=	Lithuania	133	Sierra Leone	202	American Samoa
65	Georgia	134	Tanzania		
66	Ecuador	135	Fiji		
67	Guatemala	136	Grenada		
68	China PR	137	Luxemburg		
69	Costa Rica	138	Liechtenstein		

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

Gaspart avoids double disaster at start of Nou Camp reign

To lose one of your two star players on the first day in charge of one of the biggest football clubs in the world may be regarded as unfortunate.

But, for new Barcelona president Joan Gaspart, to lose both of them inside the first couple of weeks would have looked not so much like carelessness as wilful dereliction of duty.

Luis Figo's departure for Real Madrid on the first day of Gaspart's Barcelona reign made it imperative that the club manage to ward off the advances of AC Milan and keep hold of Rivaldo.

And that forced Gaspart into what he admitted was "a little bit of madness" as he presented Rivaldo with a contract that will see him earn anywhere from 850 million pesetas ($4.69 million) to 1,100 million pesetas ($6.07 million) a year, depending on whose estimates you believe.

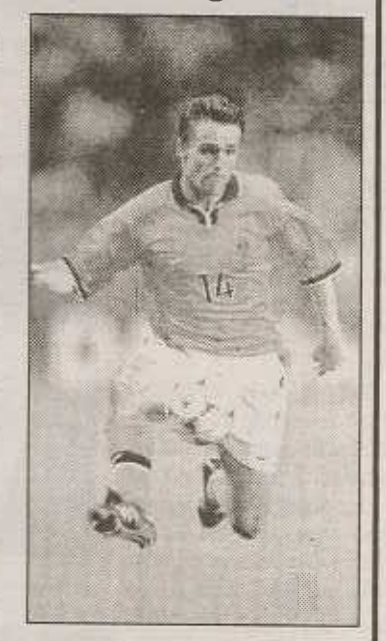
"Barcelona have gone a bit mad to pay this money," Gaspart admitted as he emerged from the negotiations with Rivaldo, which took place in an empty office in the Camp Nou.

"We've done so thanks to the madness of other clubs before us," he added in reference to Real Madrid's $96.1 million swoop for Figo.

"But with the money from Figo we've managed to buy three new players, sort out the Rivaldo situation and there is still a little bit left."

That being the case, Gaspart appears to have achieved what many thought was impossible and turned the loss of Figo to his advantage.

In the past week, the Barca president has signed Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit from Arsenal, as well as the prodigiously gifted Spanish international midfielder Gerard from Valencia.



Mars Overmars: New signing.

HAESSLER STILL AVAILABLE

Veteran Germany midfielder Thomas Haessler has said he remained available for international selection.

"I just can't stop...," 34-year-old Haessler said.

The TSV 1860 Munich player, who was a member of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning squad, earned a recall for Euro 2000.

He won his 101st cap in a 3-0 defeat by Portugal on June 20 which sent Germany home before the knockout stage.

Thomas Haessler: "Can't stop."

Gallardo recalled by Argentina

Midfielder Marcelo Gallardo has been recalled by Argentina for the World Cup qualifier at home to Paraguay later this month.

The Monaco player has only taken part in one of Argentina's six qualifiers but was brought back following an injury crisis left coach Marcelo Bielsa without striker Gabriel Batistuta and midfielder Javier Zanetti.

Batistuta, who has missed the last two matches, was not in the squad he is not expected to be fit enough for the game in Buenos Aires on August 16 while Zanetti is expected to be out of action for two months. Striker Claudio Lopez will miss the match through suspension after picking up a second yellow card in the 3-1 defeat by Brazil.

Argentina lead the South American qualifying group.

Marcelo Gallardo

Clubs must help Germany — Rummenigge

Bundesliga clubs must all help the German national team if it is to recover from the worst crisis in its history, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said last week.

Former German international Rummenigge was appointed last month as head of a task force named to work on ways to cure the troubled soccer giants.

"The national team is not the 19th team, but the number one team in Germany," Rummenigge said after presiding over the task force's first meeting in Frankfurt.

"The goal for all of us must be to bring the national team back to the top as soon as possible," he added.

The task force was named in the wake of Germany's elimination from Euro 2000 in the group stage after its worst overall performance at a major tournament.

Rummenigge unveiled a programme calling for support to the national team from the 18 German first division clubs.

All clubs should do their utmost to make sure the national teams can prepare for internationals in ideal conditions, he said.

Erich Ribbeck stepped down as head coach after the disastrous Euro 2000 campaign and was replaced by former Germany striker Rudi Voeller, whose first match in charge is a friendly with Spain on August 16 in Hanover.

FIFA reject South Africa arbitration claim

FIFA last week firmly rejected South Africa's request for arbitration over last month's vote to award the 2006 World Cup finals to Germany.

FIFA general secretary Michel Zen Ruffinen faxed a letter to the South African federation turning down their request.

FIFA later issued a statement saying that FIFA's executive committee, which met last week, had agreed with president Sepp Blatter who said that the South African claim was "inappropriate" South Africa asked for the matter to go to arbitration after losing the July 6 executive committee vote by 12 to 11.

It later emerged that Oceania confederation president Charles Dempsey had abstained, speaking of intolerable pressures on him.

Michel Zen Ruffinen

Dempsey has since resigned from his positions with Oceania and FIFA.

Zen Ruffinen said FIFA understood South Africa's disappointment but saw no need for arbitration.

In the fax, he wrote: "Arbitration implies that there is a dispute between two parties and that concrete reproaches are made to one party by the other. Your letter does not indicate in what way the voting has, according to you, been violated.

"Neither does your letter mention which articles of association and which provisions governing the voting procedure have allegedly been violated, nor what is the fraudulent behaviour of certain individuals to which you refer."

Zen Ruffinen added that the vote had been conducted in full conformity with Swiss law, supervised by a Swiss pubic notary.

South Africa indicated earlier it may go to a civil court if arbitration was refused.

FIFA embrace World Cup rotation

FIFA, acting to restore harmony after the controversial decision to award the 2006 World Cup finals to Germany, embraced the principle of rotating future finals around the continents last week.

FIFA's executive committee unanimously supported a proposal by president Sepp Blatter that, from 2010, the finals would rotate among the world body's six continental confederations.

Blatter's move followed the furore caused on July 6 when the FIFA executive voted by 12 votes to 11 to award the 2006 event to Germany rather than South Africa. The World Cup has been staged nine times before in Europe but never in Africa.

FIFA general secretary Michel Zen Ruffinen said at a news conference that Blatter had also told the executive that the decision to award the World Cup to Germany was final and could not be overturned.

South Africa, after taking legal advice, have called on FIFA to agree to take the matter to arbitration, arguing that there were irregularities in the executive committee vote.

But Blatter said South Africa's move was "inappropriate" and was not backed by the African confederation.

Details of how the new rotation system would operate will be worked out by FIFA's strategic study committee, which is likely to meet before the end of the year, Zen Ruffinen said.

"It is too early to comment on the various proposals which are being put forward," he said.

FIFA later issued a statement which read: "The committee unanimously backed Blatter's suggestion to ensure that all continents be given an equal opportunity to host the World Cup."

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BAYERN GET REVENGE ON MAN.UNITED

MAN. UNITED	1
BAYERN MUNICH	3

Two goals from striker Alexander Zickler helped Bayern Munich to a convincing 3-1 friendly victory over Manchester United in the final of the Masters 2000 tournament over the weekend.

Bayern, who conceded two goals in extra time to lose 2-1 to United in the 1999 European Cup final, were clearly the better team before their own fans on a rainy night at the Olympic Stadium.

Midfielder Mehmet Scholl gave them the lead from a penalty after Paraguayan striker Roque Santa Cruz was brought down in the box just before halftime.

Zickler then struck twice, with a header from a Jens Jeremies cross in the 62nd minute and an effort from close range seven minutes later.

The issue was already beyond doubt when United reduced the arrears with a volley from inside the penalty area by Quinton Fortune five minutes from time.

Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn played his part in an impressive performance by saving a rare David Beckham penalty five minutes into the second half.

Zickler has now scored six goals in three matches for Bayern, warming up for the defence of their German title in style.

He hit one in a 3-1 win over Galatasaray on the first day of the tournament and three to help Bayern win the German League Cup with a 5-1 demolition of Hertha Berlin, whom they will meet again in their opening Bundesliga match.

European champions Real Madrid had earlier come from behind to beat UEFA Cup holders Galatasaray 3-2 and take third place.

Spanish international striker Raul hit the winner in the 77th minute for Real, who were beaten 1-0 by Manchester United in their first match in the four-team event staged to mark the 100th anniversary of Bayern.

Galatasaray opened the scoring with a deflected free kick from Faruk Atalay in the sixth minute.

An own goal from Vedat Inceefe, under pressure from Roberto Carlos, put Real back into the match in the 11th minute.

But two minutes later, Dos Santos Marcio exploited a defensive blunder to give the Turkish side a 2-1 lead.

Real equalised in the 50th minute with Savio firing home from a cross by Luis Figo - the world record signing last month from Real's arch-rivals Barcelona - before Raul pounced to seal victory.

David Beckham: Penalty miss.

Bayern win League Cup

A hat-trick by striker Alexander Zickler helped Bayern Munich to a 5-1 demolition of Hertha Berlin last week for yet another German League Cup triumph.

The German champions, who will meet Hertha again when the Bundesliga resumes on August 12, woke up after the break to record their fourth consecutive final victory in the tournament for the top six finishers of last season.

Bayern walked away with a tidy 2.5 million marks ($1.19 million) in prize money.

Zickler showed them the way with a brilliant shot from the corner of the box in the 50th minute.

Fellow striker Carsten Jancker made it 2-0 with a deflected shot from just outside the penalty area three minutes later before Iceland defender Eyjolfur Sverrisson put Hertha 3-0 down with an own goal under pressure from new Bayern signing Ciriaco Sforza in the 57th minute.

Striker Kai Michalke restored hope for the Berlin club with a thunderous drive from 16 metres in the 61st minute but Zickler was soon back for more.

He made it 4-1 with a swift counter-attack in the 67th minute before sealing his side's win five minutes from time.

"We were very strong collectively but it took us too much time to find the right rhythm and that's something we must work on in training," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, whose men won the domestic league and Cup double last season.

Valencia Break Club Record

Valencia have signed midfielder Ruben Baraja from Atletico Madrid for a club record 2,000 million pesetas ($11.14 million).

Last season's Champions League runners-up said last week they had paid the player's buy-out clause, leaving him free to agree a seven-year deal.

He became Valencia's most expensive signing, surpassing the previous highest 1,735 million pesetas ($9.66 million) paid for Argentina striker Ariel Ortega in 1997.

"It is an important challenge for me to play in a team which reached the final of the Champions League last season," Baraja said.

He joined Atletico from Valladolid in 1996 but spent three seasons in the reserves before breaking through to the first team.

He was one of the few players to impress in Atletico's relegation season last term.

The move completes the remodelling of the Valencia midfield following the departure of Francisco Farinos to Inter Milan and Gerard to Barcelona.

Baraja will line up alongside Spain's Gaizka Mendieta, Argentine Kily Gonzalez and new signings Didier Deschamps of France and Slovenian Zlatko Zahovic.

Hagi must lead Romanian campaign – Boloni

New Romania coach Ladislau Boloni wants to talk midfielder Gheorghe Hagi out of international retirement to spearhead the country's 2002 World Cup campaign.

"Several Romanian players decided to quit the national team, some others are showing signs of ageing," Boloni said last week.

"But the great loss would be (captain) Gheorghe Hagi's retirement. I'll try to make him change his mind."

Key defender Gheorghe Popescu has also announced he might not play for Romania in a friendly against Poland in Bucharest later this month. Midfielder Ionut Lupescu and goalkeeper Florin Prunea have also ended their international careers.

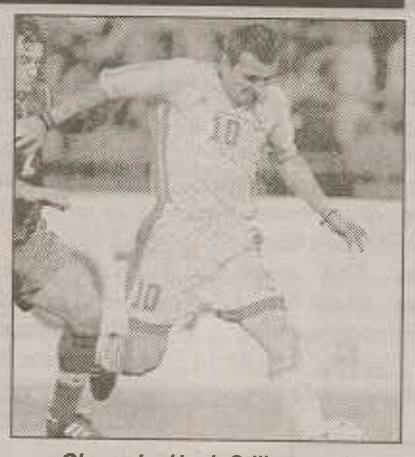
Boloni said he would continue to rely on exiles for the qualifying tournament, as well as searching out young talent in the domestic championship.

"For the time being, I'll call at least 16 players from the 18-man squad from foreign clubs," Boloni said.

"In the longer run, my main aim is to build a balanced squad, with older and younger players.

"Even if young players are not skilled enough to face a strong squad like current European Cup finalists Italy, they must have a role in the national squad," Boloni said.

Boloni's contract runs until the finals in July 2002 but he is looking beyond that date. "I am already thinking of the 2006 World Cup in Germany," he said.



Gheorghe Hagi: Still wanted.

Edmundo joins Santos

Brazilian striker Edmundo, who has left a trail of rows, controversies and fights behind him wherever he has gone, has joined Pele's former club Santos on loan. This time he promises to behave.

"It's only human to make mistakes and I've made plenty," admitted the player nicknamed "The Animal".

"History has stopped for Santos but I intend to re-start it and win a trophy in as short a time as possible."

Edmundo joined from Vasco da Gama, where he was kicked out of the team by vice-president Eurico Miranda for indiscipline.

A crowd of around 2,000 supporters was at Santos' Vila Belmiro Stadium to welcome the bad boy of Brazilian football when he arrived.

Santos, who have not won a domestic trophy since 1984, will be the sixth club in the career of one of Brazil's most gifted but volatile players.

Edmundo has been at Vasco da Gama three times, Palmeiras, Corinthians, Flamengo and Italy's Fiorentina, winning trophies and enemies in equal proportion.

At Palmeiras, where he won two Brazilian championships, Edmundo repeatedly clashed with coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, was involved in a dressing-room brawl with team mate Antonio Carlos and was finally sacked after complaining that the grass needed cutting at the stadium.

His stint with Corinthians ended when he stormed out of a training session after an argument and never returned.

Flamengo decided to offload him the same year after he was involved in a car crash in which three people were killed.

Last year, Edmundo was sentenced to 4-1/2 years in prison for that incident but, after one night behind bars, was freed pending an appeal which has yet to be heard.

At Fiorentina, he fell out with his team mates and then infuriated fans by leaving the side at a critical stage in the season and returning to Rio for 10 days, where he was seen taking part in the world famous carnival.

At Vasco, he has had numerous clashes with the club. Earlier this year, he stormed out of the dressing-room minutes before a game after losing the captain's armband to fellow striker Romario.

Edmundo: Will he behave?

He earned the wrath of enviromental authorities after giving beer to a chimpanzee during his son's birthday party and gave a television interview in which he made racist remarks against a referee who had sent him off.

Edmundo's problems have seriously curtailed his international career. Although he was in the squad for the 1998 World Cup, he made only two appearances as a substitute.

AEK Athens in spat over double signing

Greek cup winners AEK Athens are threatening to take the local football association (EPO) to FIFA over a player who signed simultaneous contracts with two first division teams, a club official said last week.

The issue centres on Greek international Ierokles Stoltidis, whom AEK reported to league authorities in June, charging he had walked away from a three-year AEK deal and renewed his contract with Iraklis Salonika.

A league court handed down a six-month ban on Stoltidis on July 25 but the decision was reversed three days later by an EPO court of appeal, freeing the player to resume pre-season training with Iraklis.

AEK have now presented what they say is a signed copy of the Stoltidis contract and demanded another hearing. The official said AEK would take the matter to world football's ruling body FIFA if they were not satisfied with EPO's response.

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

TUESDAY AUGUST 8
Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

Amsterdam Tournament
Day Two
Barcelona v Lazio
Arsenal v Ajax
Fox Sports
1am - 5am
(Wednesday Morning)

FRIDAY AUGUST 11
English Premier League
Best goals of season 99/00
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

SATURDAY AUGUST 12
English Premier League
Best goals of season 99/00
Fox Sports 2
11am - 12pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Scottish Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
8.55pm - 11pm

Italian Summer Series
Gais vs Lazio (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
2.55am - 5am
(Sunday Morning)

SUNDAY AUGUST 13
English FA Charity Shield
Man Utd vs Chelsea (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
11.30pm - 2.30am

USMLS:
Kansas vs LA Galaxy (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
12pm - 2pm

USMLS:
Tampa Bay vs San Jose
Optus (ESPN)
2am - 4am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY AUGUST 14
English FA Charity Shield
Man Utd vs Chelsea (Replay)
Fox Sports 2
7pm - 9pm

WORLD

BARCELONA BEAT ARSENAL

Barcelona	2
Arsenal	1

Barcelona, boosted by an early goal by Josep Guardiola, beat Arsenal 2-1 in the four-team Amsterdam tournament last week.

It was Barcelona's Dutch contingent who drew the fans to the Amsterdam Arena. The stadium, little over half full for the Ajax-Lazio game, soon filled up when Barca paraded their Dutch internationals.

And they did not have to wait long for a goal, Guardiola converting a third minute penalty awarded for a Martin Keown foul on Dani.

Tomas equalised from Silvinho's neat cross with a superb right-foot shot in the 33rd minute.

But Arsenal's joy was shortlived. Six minutes later Barcelona regained the lead when Phillip Cocu headed home Guardiola's corner.

Rivaldo, Thierry Henry and Robert Pires made an appearance in the second half but the game failed to sparkle and there were no further goals.

Marc Overmars and Emmanuel Petit, who defected from Highbury to the Nou Camp last month, were booed by the Arsenal fans who had made the journey to Amsterdam.

Thierry Henry: Appearance made no difference.

Unlucky Ajax draw with Lazio

Ajax	0
Lazio	0

A largely youthful and inexperienced Ajax were unlucky to come away with just a 0-0 draw against Lazio in the first game of the 'Amsterdam tournament' at the Arena last week.

Ajax had by far the bulk of the possession in their match with the Italian champions and almost all the chances.

The performance left a vociferous if sparse home crowd feeling a little more optimistic about the coming season after their side finished a dismal fifth last year. New coach Co Adriaanse would also have taken some encouragement.

Andy van der Meyde in particular impressed on the right wing, getting into some superb positions and showing he could be dangerous in front of goal.

The 20-year-old formed a useful partnership with Aron Winter, 13 years his senior, and rightly deserved the man of the match award.

Lazio looked far from impressive and had only a handful of chances, all thanks to their Czech star Pavel Nedved.

Full results page 31

Deschamps aiming to collect more silverware at Valencia

Didier Deschamps was officially presented as a Valencia player at the club's Mestalla Stadium last week.

Former Chelsea star Deschamps, who captained France to victory in the 1998 World Cup and in this year's European Championship, has signed a three-year deal with a buy-out clause of 10,000 million pesetas ($92.5m).

The French midfielder joins last season's Champions League finalists after a mediocre season at Chelsea.

The London club say they have sold the player, although Valencia have not made public the details of the transfer fee and Deschamps' salary.

"This is a great team and I have come here to win something," said the French midfielder. "I think I can help the team win the league, which is the most important competition here in Spain as it is in England, France and Italy.

"I've not come to Valencia thinking of having a holiday or of retiring," said the 31-year-old. "I can have three more years at the top level."

Valencia president Pedro Cortes said at the presentation that he hoped Deschamps would continue to add to his impressive collection of trophies at his new club. He also dismissed talk of the player's age.

"We haven't looked at the player's age, but at his quality," he said. "The only thing I have said to Didier is that he should look forward with enthusiasm to his three years here."

In addition to the titles he has won with France, Deschamps has won two European Cups with Olympic Marseille and Juventus.

Deschamps will be playing alongside another new signing Zlatko Zahovic who starred for Slovenia at Euro 2000 and the much vaunted Spanish international Gaizka Mendieta.

Didier Deschamps: Paraded in his new Valencia Strip.

Spanish club scores 59 goals in two games

In just two pre-season matches Spanish first division club Racing Santander have managed to score an incredible 59 goals.

The impressive total is two goals more than they scored in all of last season's cup and league competitions.

The victims of Racing's goal glut were Smilde G4 – a humble Dutch side forming part of the Spanish side's pre-season campaign in the Netherlands.

Racing won 33-0 in their first encounter with the Dutch side, who now have the unfortunate distinction of being able to say that they improved by losing only 26-0 in their second match.

Top scorer for Racing is their Norwegian striker Sigurd Rushfeldt with 16 goals in the two games.

The tally is all the more remarkable when taking into account the fact that Racing have sold their main striker Salva to Atletico Madrid and their Spanish international winger Pedro Munitis to Real Madrid.

Salva was the top scorer in the Spanish league last season with 27 goals while Munitis managed to notch six.

McManaman plays down transfer talk

Real Madrid midfielder Steve McManaman has played down talk of a swift return to the Premier League, saying: "I've got no intention of moving back to England."

McManaman's future at the Spanish club has been thrown into doubt by the arrival of Luis Figo, who is almost certain to be given the England man's spot on the right side of midfield.

Newspapers in England and Spain have linked McManaman with a move to either Middlesbrough or Arsenal but for the moment at least the former Liverpool man is staying put.

"All the transfer talk is just rubbish as far as I'm concerned," said McManaman, who returned to training with Real last week after the summer break.

"It's just newspaper talk. I'm very happy here and I want to stay. I came from one big club (Liverpool) to another with the intention of winning things and I managed that last season in the Champions League."

A potential problem for McManaman could be if Real decide to force his hand over a transfer as the club look to recoup some of the money from the $96m Figo deal.

Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo said last week that he had found himself in just such a situation as he moved to AC Milan after pledging his future to Real.

"Redondo's move came as a big shock," McManaman admitted. "If Real did decide they wanted me to go then I'd just have to deal with that situation as and when.

"But for a start I don't think they do want to sell me and I've got no intention of going back to England."

McManaman enjoyed a good first season at Real Madrid following his move on a free transfer from Liverpool.

He was outstanding in the latter stages of the club's Champions League campaign and scored the second goal in the 3-0 victory over Valencia in the final.

Steve McManaman: Staying put.

REUTER OUT FOR THREE MONTHS

Borussia Dortmund trainer Matthias Sammer said that losing libero and captain Stefan Reuter through a knee injury would force him to rethink his defensive strategy.

The 33-year-old former German international underwent surgery on his right knee last week and could be out of action for up to three months, the German first division club said.

Reuter had surgery on the same knee in February. Dortmund's opening match of the season is against Hansa Rostock.

"It's a big blow. It's extremely annoying for me and the whole team," said Sammer, a former international himself until he was forced to quit after a knee operation in 1997.

Joerg Heinrich, who returned to Dortmund from Fiorentina two weeks ago, looks most likely to take Reuter's place.

WORLD

KLUIVERT SAYS NEVER

Barcelona's Dutch international forward Patrick Kluivert says he would never follow in Luis Figo's footsteps and sign for Real Madrid.

"I would never go to Real because I know how much damage it would do to the Barca fans," the player said in an interview with Barcelona-based daily *Sport* last Saturday.

"There are times when money is secondary and feelings are more important."

Kluivert said that Figo's departure had come as a surprise to the team.

"We didn't expect it to happen. His attitude has hurt the rest of us, although we have to respect his decision."

The 24-year-old also said the transfer would only intensify the rivalry between the two clubs.

"Everyone is very angry and they want revenge for what has happened. This season we are going to help the fans get back at Real."

Kluivert, who was equal top sorer in Euro 2000, said that he wanted to see out his contract at the club, but would eventually aim to play in England's Premier League.

"I have two years left on my contract and I want to stay on a few years after that. Afterwards I would like to have the experience of playing in England."

Reports in the Spanish and British press said that the Dutch player rejected an approach from Manchester United earlier this summer.

Patrick Kluivert: Will never leave Barca for Real Madrid.

BARCA WIN AJAX TOURNAMENT

Rivaldo: Equaliser.

Barcelona clinched overall victory in the four-team Amsterdam tournament last week after scoring twice in the second half to draw 3-3 against Lazio.

Hosts Ajax finished second by beating Arsenal 2-0 in the closing match.

Lazio were third and Arsenal, who lost both games, last.

Sinisa Mihajlovic put Lazio ahead before Marcelo Salas struck twice to put the Italians 3-1 up at the break.

Gerard pulled it back to 3-2 before Rivaldo equalised in the 76th minute.

MARADONA HAS NO REGRETS OVER "HAND OF GOD" GOAL

Diego Maradona still has no remorse about his "Hand of God" goal against England at the 1986 World Cup and says he would do the same again today.

Maradona's infamous strike for Argentina in the 2-1 quarter-final victory, when he punched the ball over goalkeeper Peter Shilton, has rankled with England fans ever since.

But the Argentine idol told Britain's *Channel 4,* in a programme to be screened tonight (Tuesday night), he was happy to have done something he likened to stealing wallets.

"I was and always will be happy with the goal I scored with my hand," he said, according to extracts from the programme published in *the Independent* last Sunday.

"I offer the English a thousand apologies, but I'd still do it again."

As for cheating and escaping punishment, he added: "That's what I did to the English. I stole their wallets without them realising.

"Argentinians are proud because no one saw me.

"They identify with that."

"Hand of God": Maradona taps the ball past England keeper Peter Shilton during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Maradona was interviewed in Cuba, where he is being treated for drug addiction following serious heart problems.

As for the future, he told the programme: "I dream of coaching Manchester United, Barcelona. I dream of coaching Real Madrid, Boca Juniors, the Argentine team.

"They'll never kill my dreams," Maradona said.

WORLD RESULTS

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

St Johnstone 2 Hearts 2, Aberdeen 2 St Mirren 1, Celtic 1 Motherwell 0, Dundee 3 Dunfermline Athletic 0, Hibernian 3 Dundee United 0, Kilmarnock 2 Rangers 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dundee	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**6**
2. Rangers	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
3. Celtic	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
4. Hibernian	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
5. Aberdeen	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
6. Kilmarnock	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
7. Hearts	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
8. St Johnstone	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
9. Dunfermline	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
10. St Mirren	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
11. Motherwell	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
12. Dundee Utd	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

LEADING SCORERS

4- Billy Dodds (Rangers).

2- Didier Agagthe (Hibernian), Andy McLaren (Kilmarnock).

1- Mark Perry, Arild Stavrum (both Aberdeen), Henrik Larsson, Stilian Petrov, Chris Sutton (all Celtic), Javier Artero, Patrizio Billio, Fabien Caballero, Jose Sara (all Dundee), David McCracken (Dundee United), Thomas McManus (Hibernian), Gary Holt (Kilmarnock), Kenny Miller, Kermioglu Tugay (both Rangers), Alan Kernaghan (St Johnstone), Ricky Gillies (St Mirren), Keigan Parker, Graeme Jones (both St Johnstone), Kris O'Neil, Robert Tomaschek (both Hearts).

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Stade Rennes 1 Paris St Germain 1, Racing Lens 3 En Avant Guingamp 2, Metz 1 AJ Auxerre 2, Troyes 1 Toulouse 1, Racing Strasbourg 0 Lille 4, Bastia 2 Girondins Bordeaux 0, Monaco 2 Nantes 5, St Etienne 3 Olympique Marseille 0, Sedan 1 Olympique Lyon 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Racing Lens	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**2**	**6**
2. Bastia	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
3. Lille	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
4= St Etienne	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
4= PSG	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
6. Sedan	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
7. Nantes	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
8. AJ Auxerre	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
9. Marseille	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
10= Lyon	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
10= Rennes	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
12. Guingamp	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
13. Metz	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
14. Toulouse	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
15. Troyes	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
16. Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
17. Monaco	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
18. Strasbourg	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

CROATIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Zagreb 0 Hajduk 2, Sibenik 1 Marsonia 0, Cibalia 0 Hrv. Dragovoljac 0, Slaven Belupo 0 Osijek 0, Cakovec 2 Varteks 2, Rijeka 0 Dinamo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**1**	**6**
2. Sibenik	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
3. Dragovoljac	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
4. Osijek	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
5. Hajduk	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
6. Varteks	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
7. Slvn Belupo	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
8. Cakovec	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
9. Cibalia	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
10. Zagreb	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
11. Rijeka	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
12. Marsonia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

JAPANESE J-LEAGUE

FC Tokyo 0 Kashiwa-Reysol 2, Cerezo Osaka 3 Jubilo Iwata 0, Kawasaki Frontale 2 Vissel Kobe 1, Avispa Fukuoka 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2, Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Gamba Osaka 1, Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1, JEF United Ichihara 1 Verdy Kawasaki 4, Yokohama F Marinos 1 Kashima Antlers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Kashima	**8**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**17**	**4**	**19**
2. Gamba Osaka	8	6	0	2	13	8	17
3. Iwata	8	5	0	3	18	12	15
4. Tokyo	8	5	0	3	15	7	14
5. Kashiwa	8	5	0	3	12	6	14
6. Fukuoka	8	5	0	3	12	10	14
7. Nagoya	8	4	1	3	16	16	13
8. Hiroshima	8	4	1	3	13	13	13
9. Kyoto	8	4	1	3	14	15	12
10.Osaka	8	4	0	4	10	12	11
11.Yokohama	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
12.V. Kawasaki	8	2	2	4	9	11	8
13. Shimizu	8	2	2	4	7	11	7
14. K. Frontale	8	1	2	5	6	17	5
15. Ichihara	8	1	1	6	8	17	4
16. Kobe	8	1	0	7	9	19	3

(Note: winners in extra time are awarded 2 points)

ROMANIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Otelul Galati 4 Arges Pitesti 1, Rapid Bucharest 3 Petrolul Ploiesti 1, Universitatea Craiova 1 FCM Brasov 0, Gaz Metan Medias 3 Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 0, Foresta Falticeni 2 Gloria Bistrita 0, Astra Ploiesti 0 Rocar Bucharest 2, National Bucharest 1 Dinamo Bucharest 3.

BULGIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

CSKA Sofia 0 Lovech 0, Lokomotiv Sofia 6 Minyor Pernik 1, Cherno More Varna 3 Chernomorets Bourgas 0, Velbazhd Kyustendil 0 Slavia Sofia 1, Olimpik-Beroe Teteven 0 Levski Sofia 2, Botev Plovdiv 3 Hebar 1920-Iskar Pazardzhik 1, Neftochimik Bourgas 2 Spartak Varna 5.

BELGIAN SUPER CUP

Anderlecht 3 (Pirard 35, Stoica 40 Anastasiou 60pen) Genk 1 (Thijs 44pen).

AMSTERDAM TOURNAMENT

WINNER – BARCELONA

Round one

Ajax 0 Lazio 0, **Barcelona 2 (Guardiola 3, Cocu 39) Arsenal 1 (Tomas 33)**

Round Two

Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Arveladze 38, Hose 89) Arsenal 0, **Barcelona 3 (Dani 36, Gerard 65, Rivaldo 76) Lazio 3 (Mihajlovic 22, Salas 34, 40).**

MASTERS 2000 TOURNAMENT

WINNER – BAYERN MUNICH

Final

Bayern Munich 3 (Scholl 45, Zickler 62, 69) Manchester United 1 (Fortune 85)

Third place

Real Madrid 3 (Inceefe 11og, Savio 50, Raul 77) Galatasaray 2 (Atalay 6, Santos Marcio 13).

Semi Finals

Manchester United 1 (Solskjaer 90) Real Madrid 0, **Bayern Munich 3 (Santa Cruz 9, Kuffour 55, Zickler 85) Galatasaray 1 (Hagi 89)**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

THIRD ROUND DRAW

Tirol Innsbruck (Austria) v Valencia (Spain), Zimbru Chisinau (Moldova) v Sparta Prague (Czech Rep), **Brondby (Denmark) v Hamburg (Germany),** Inter (Italy) v Helsingborg (Sweden), **Besiktas (Turkey) v Lokomotiv Moscow (Russia),** Inter Bratislava (Slovakia) v Lyon (France), **Anderlecht (Belgium) v Porto (Portugal),** Herfolge (Denmark) v Rangers (Scotland), **D.Kiev (Ukraine) v Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia),** P.Warsaw (Poland) v Panathinaikos (Greece), **Leeds (England) v 1860 Munich (Germany),** Sturm Graz (Austria) v Feyenoord (Netherlands), **Dunaferr (Hungary) v Rosenborg (Norway),** St Gallen (Switzerland) v Galatasaray (Turkey), **AC Milan (Italy) v D.Zagreb (Croatia),** Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukraine) v Slavia Prague (Czech Rep).

First leg... August 8/9

Second leg... August 22 or 23

INTERTOTO CUP

SEMI-FINALS....SECOND LEG

Blsany (Czech Rep) 0 Sigma Olomouc (Czech Rep) 0 Olomouc win 3-1 on aggregate, **Standard Liege (Belgium) 0 VfB Stuttgart (Germany) 1 VfB win 2-1 on agg,** Aston Villa (England) 1 Celta Vigo (Spain) 2 Celta win 3-1 on agg, **Bradford (England) 0 Zenit St Petersburg (Russia) 3 Zenit win 4-0 on agg,** VfL Wolfsburg (Germany) 1 Auxerre (France) 2 Auxerre win 3-2 on agg, **Udinese (Italy) 2 Austria Vienna (Austria) 0 Udinese win 3-0 on agg.**

FINAL ROUND DRAW

Sigma Olomouc (Czech Rep) v Udinese (Italy), **Celta Vigo (Spain) v Zenit St Petersburg (Russia),** Auxerre (France) v VfB Stuttgart (Germany).

First leg... August 8

Second leg... August 22

FRENCH FLAIR

EMMANUEL PETIT

France and Barcelona